

# THE PRODUCER

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

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### Zebu on the Southern Range

**T**HROUGH THE GARDENS and cultivated fields of India browse bands of white bulls, feeding on the fruits of the farmer's toil and trampling down what they cannot devour. But no orthodox Hindu dares molest them; for the bulls belong to the temple herds of sacred "Brahminy."

"Zebu" is the name given by Europeans to this Indian breed of cattle. Scientists seem agreed that it constitutes a distinct species, which they have catalogued as *Bos indicus*. The zebu, however, mates freely with other breeds, and the offspring is invariably fertile. Unlike our common cow, whose period of gestation is 270 days, the female carries her calf 300 days. The forehead of the zebu is bulging, the horns short, and concave along the upper border, the ears large and drooping, and the dewlap abnormally developed. Its most characteristic mark is the hump surmounting its withers. This protuberance in the largest specimens is said to reach a weight of fifty pounds, and is considered a great delicacy by the English in India. Varieties with two humps are also found, as well as hornless types. In size the zebu ranges from animals larger than our ordinary oxen to others not much taller than mastiffs. Its most common color is ashy gray or creamy buff, but red, brown, black, and white are likewise met with. Its voice resembles that of the yak—rather a grunting than a lowing. By nature it is gentle, docile, and very hardy. Like

the camel, it can go for a long time without water. Like the camel, too, it is capable of walking long distances on the meagerest of rations. These qualities make the profane brother of the sacred bull extremely useful as a beast of draft and burden in his native land. In addition to India, the zebu is distributed over China, the Asiatic islands, Madagascar, and the east coast of Africa. Many modifications of the type are found.



THREE-QUARTER-BREED BRAHMA BULLS

The introduction into this country of "Brahma" cattle, as they were called here, dates back about seventy years. In the early fifties of the past century a few individuals of this species were imported from India as an experiment by men who had become acquainted with their admirable traits. Today the descendants of these pioneers are distributed throughout the Gulf states, either as pure-

breeds or crossed with domestic types. From time to time fresh importations, especially of bulls, have been made from Asia, and occasionally prize specimens have been secured from menageries and collections brought over for exhibition purposes.

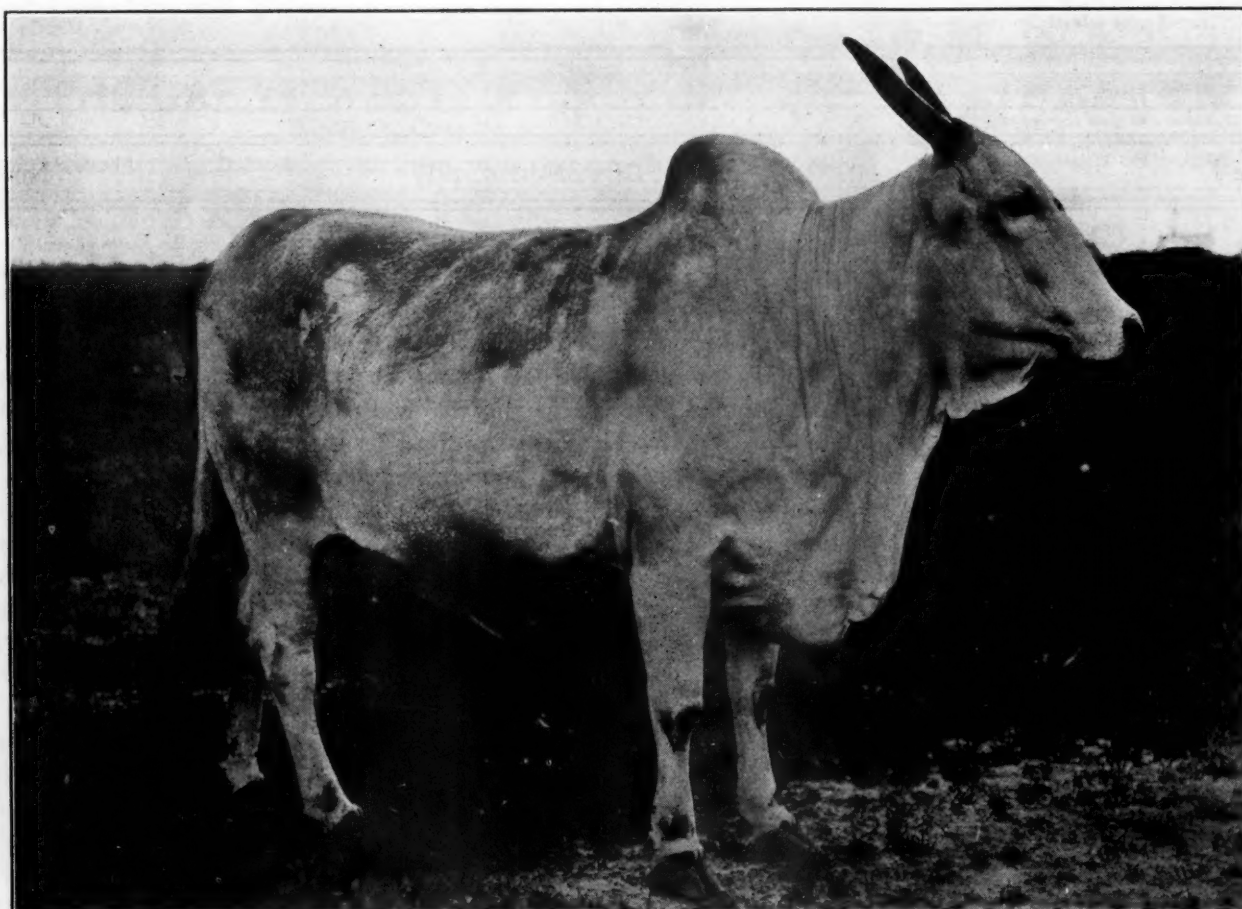
Foremost among the qualities which have contributed to the rapidly growing popularity of the Brahma cattle on the southern range is their capacity for taking on flesh. It is asserted by breeders who have given years of study to the subject that the Brahma is easier to fatten, and retains its fat longer, than any other breed. Where it takes ordinary cattle five or six

months to put on a given number of pounds, the Brahma will require from one to two months less. In the feed-lot as on the range, it is claimed, it leads the rest of the herd, and, in the final test at the market, it produces a larger percentage of dressed beef.

In hardiness of constitution and adaptability to varying climatic and feed conditions Brahma cattle are likewise held to be superior to our domestic breeds.

ering resulting from a tropic or subtropic climate, it is not unnatural to suppose that this trait may be lost or materially modified as a changed environment begins to make its influence felt. Presumably, too, the progressive crossing with other breeds of cattle is a factor to be taken into account in this connection.

Great fecundity is another valuable property in Brahma cattle. Mr. McFadden states that the annual



PURE-BRED BRAHMA COW

"The heat never bothers them, and hence they never hunt shade," says A. M. McFadden, ex-president of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, who is a Brahma enthusiast of forty years' standing. "During the last severe drought here they were the last cattle to be put in the feed-lots to prevent their dying. They seem to possess the most perfect digestive organs of any known breed of cattle, thriving equally well in brushy and rocky, in dry and wet countries, and being in most excellent condition where other cattle can barely exist. No other breed can stand what they can."

Notable, further, is the freedom of the Brahma from ticks and other insect pests. Whether this resistance is an intrinsic quality that may be transmitted indefinitely to future generations, or an acquired characteristic produced by the peculiar conditions of its natural habitat, it will take further experiments to reveal. If it is merely a consequence of the scantiness of hair-cov-

calf crop on his ranch reaches 95 per cent. The cows, with their gentle disposition, make exceptionally good mothers, and the calves are always fat.

Some prejudice was originally aroused against this breed on account of its unattractive coloring. The first importations were either gray, white, or black and red. While gray has proved the most popular shade, the grades of the latter two colors have uniformly been the largest-boned and heaviest animals, according to A. P. Borden, of Pierce, Texas—another Brahma breeder of wide experience, who has imported a large number of bulls direct from India. "The first crosses," says Mr. Borden, "were of all colors; but by selection and careful breeding the later crosses, or higher grades, are coming very uniform in color and conformation."

That the Brahmas are "the coming cattle of the South" is the firm conviction of Mr. McFadden, from whose eulogy of the race we quote further:



The cows are the most prolific of any breed I have ever had on my ranch. I am thoroughly convinced that the day will come when every cow from southern Florida to Arizona will have more or less Brahma blood in her veins. After forty years of actual breeding, raising, and marketing of Brahma cattle, I have discarded my Durham, Hereford, and Black Muley herds, and turned all my attention to Brahmas, as they dress a higher percentage and sell well on the market. The calves for veal are market toppers.

A more recent convert to the Brahma cult is Colonel

were of the Brahma breed. He told me that nearly all the steers of that breed were fat, while the other cattle were not ready for market till from thirty to sixty days later. Since that time the colonel has been a pronounced Brahma enthusiast. This year he rounded up for shipment 400 four-year-old steers in one of his pastures. In this shipment were twenty-four Brahma steers. He had these steers segregated and shipped separately. They outweighed the other cattle and sold for \$1.25 more than the rest, which were well-bred Herefords.



PURE-BRED TWO-YEAR-OLD BRAHMA BULL

Ike T. Pryor, who at first showed considerable skepticism as to the merits of the new breed. Says Mr. McFadden:

Eight years ago I sold Colonel Pryor a herd of steers to be shipped to his Oklahoma range for fattening. When, early in June, he made his first shipment, 75 per cent of the cattle

E. C. Lasater, of Falfurrias, Texas—one of the most extensive breeders in the southern part of that state—is another cattle-raiser who has become thoroughly convinced of the merits of the Brahma breed. Mr. Lasater is using Brahma bulls with his pure-bred Durham and Hereford cows. The cross makes an ideal ranch and feed-lot animal.

### NEW MEXICO CATTLE-GROWERS PASS RESOLUTIONS

ON NOVEMBER 7 AND 8, 1919, the executive committee of the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers' Association met at the State Agricultural College in Las Cruces. A resolution was adopted indorsing the plan of the Department of Agriculture for the collection of more complete statistical data relative to live-stock conditions in the state. Another resolution was passed requesting the officials of the Forest Service to enforce strict compliance with the rules governing the placing of salt on community allotments in the national forests, to prohibit the use of dogs for round-up work on the range, and to establish new regulations requiring permittees on the forests

to confine their working of cattle to two general periods—spring and fall—the exact dates to be determined at a joint meeting of permittees and representatives of the Service; all permittees to participate on a pro-rata basis, and ten days' notice to be given in case circumstances should necessitate the working of the range by any permittee or permittees at any other time. A more liberal endowment of the Agricultural College was recommended.

The executive committee has decided henceforth to hold its meetings at various points throughout the state, in order to make it more convenient for members to attend, and also for the purpose of disseminating a more general interest in the activities of the association. This plan should commend itself to all similar organizations.

## Shorthorns on the Range

BY W. A. COCHEL

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Manhattan, Kansas*

THE RANGE was originally stocked with the long-horned cattle of Spanish extraction, noted particularly for their constitutions and rustling abilities. These two characteristics are developed to the highest possible degree in cattle which are undersized, heavy in the forequarter, and light in the hindquarter.

The first notable improvement was made by the introduction of the old-fashioned Shorthorn or, as they were then called, Durham bulls. The first Shorthorns sent to the range were used to correct the deficiencies of unimproved blood. They increased the average weight of range cows on which they were used from 750 to 1,150 pounds. They gave to them width of loin, length and breadth of rump, and depth of flank and hindquarter. They also brought about the increased milk production necessary to produce calves weighing from 400 to 500 pounds, instead of the 300 to 350 pounds which was the customary weight of calves from native cattle at weaning time.

In the selection of these bulls two essential points were considered: they should possess a large amount of bone, and they should mature into individuals of tremendous scale. The result of this method of selection was that breeders, dealers, and speculators have translated the term "range bull" to mean a large, coarse, slow-maturing individual of such a type and quality as to make him a discard from the breeding herds in farming sections. In fact, range bulls came to be considered as individuals which could not possibly be sold for any other purpose.

The color craze for red Shorthorns, which caused breeders to eliminate all individuals which were unfortunate enough to be born as roans or whites, is a thing of the past, so far as bulls to be used in the farming sections of the country are concerned; but orders for range bulls still specify that reds, and reds alone, will be accepted in the majority of instances. As most of the best breeders of Shorthorn cattle are using roan and white herd bulls, the range-bull buyers eliminate a large percentage of the top bulls of the breed before giving them consideration. This discrimination is made because of the fact that lice and ticks apparently bother the cattle of lighter colors more than those which have more pigment in the skin.

The criticism usually made of Shorthorns by range cattlemen is that they do not rustle so well as cattle of other breeds. Attention is called to the superior rustling qualities of native, scrub, or unimproved cattle.

When the same amount of range and feed is allowed a 750-pound range cow as is given to a 1,200-pound high-grade Shorthorn, all laws of physiology, chemistry, and physics indicate that the 750-pound cow will come through the winter in better condition than the 1,200-pound cow. Similarly, a Shorthorn cow which gives sufficient milk to produce a calf weighing 500 pounds at weaning will either have to have more grass during the summer or be thinner at the close of the grazing season than the cow which produces only enough milk to develop a calf to 350 pounds at the same age. The increased feed consumption is not in proportion to the size of the animal, as three cows weighing 800 pounds each will require more feed, more care, and more labor than two which weigh 1,200 pounds each.

Every improvement made by breeders in the size, quality, and beef value of cattle has been made under conditions when cattlemen were willing to adopt better methods of cattle management. Every breed of cattle which has maintained the high degree of excellence which has made it distinctive has been maintained under conditions which were favorable to the production of cattle. Improved live stock requires improved conditions; hence the Shorthorn which is admittedly developed to the highest degree of excellence responds readily in the hands of the best cattlemen of the range. Even breeders who admittedly prefer other breeds recognize the importance of infusing Shorthorn blood into their herds in order to give to their product the size, width, and depth, as well as the thickness in hindquarters, which increase their value upon the market.

In going through range herds, it is quite noticeable that brackled-faced steers, or steers with roan bodies, are usually decidedly superior to those which show no evidence of Shorthorn blood. The carload of S. M. S. steers which won the grand championship at the 1918 International carried all the Shorthorn blood that it was possible to cover up with Hereford markings. Other loads of cattle which are frequently classified as Herefords on the central market are deeply indebted to the Shorthorn foundation in their blood which has made their development possible.

While nearly all range cattlemen realize the importance of an admixture of Shorthorn blood in their herds, few of them will buy Shorthorns of modern type for this purpose. This point has been discussed with some who insist that all they want from Shorthorn bulls in their herds is to increase the size, improve the hindquarters, and stimulate the flow of milk. These



three improvements can be made from the use of Shorthorn bulls which do not measure up to the standards of the breed, and hence can be purchased at prices which require a low investment in bulls.

Other progressive range men have had the courage to pay the price necessary to secure modern Shorthorn bulls with wide, short heads, short, thick necks, deep, broad bodies, short legs, thick- and even-fleshed, with spring of fore rib, width and depth of loin, and straightness of both top and under lines. This disregard of color and insistence on individual merit have resulted in steers such as those produced by A. A. Neale, which have repeatedly won the grand championship as feeders at the International, or as those produced by Weiss Brothers, which as two-year-olds sold for the record price of \$20.75 per hundredweight, outselling the champion steers of the same show 50 cents a hundredweight, and outweighing them 70 pounds per head. This load of cattle brought more money than any other load of feeders ever sold in America. A cut-off from the lower end of this load topped the Kansas City market during the first week of October.

Grass-fat Shorthorns from Montana hold the record for range cattle, both as to weight and value, in Chicago. The best load of range steers reaching eastern markets from California was a load of Shorthorns from the Pacheco range. Further evidence of the value of Shorthorn blood is furnished from Arizona, where the highest-priced load of steers sold during the summer of 1919 were Shorthorns. In Wyoming, which is not generally recognized as a Shorthorn territory, two-year-old Shorthorn steers marketed in Omaha weighed within 30 pounds of the three-year-olds from the same range, which did not carry Shorthorn blood. These few instances of the merit of Shorthorns indicate the possibility of their wider and more extensive use in range territory.

The merit of Shorthorn bulls is exemplified by the additional weight of the steers from their service, by their quality and type, by their dispositions which make them popular with feeders, and by the favor shown them when finished. Range men notice the absence of pinkeye and cancerous eyes, lumpy jaw, and abortions among Shorthorn range cows. The sleekness and bloom of their calves at weaning, and the absence of difficulty in moving them from pasture to winter quarters, are also noticeable.

That they are gaining in popularity is evidenced by the fact that during the past two years, when breeders of other breeds are carrying over carloads of two-year-old bulls, it is almost impossible to gather together a single load of Shorthorns old enough for immediate service. Commission men and dealers remark that the majority of orders for feeding cattle indicate a preference for real Shorthorns. The great difficulty in filling these orders comes from the fact that Shorthorn steers are appreciated so highly in the communities where they are produced that they seldom reach any central market until they are ready for slaughter.

Any range man who will continually use Shorthorn bulls of modern type, giving the cows sufficient feed to maintain them in desirable breeding condition and enable them to produce an abundance of milk, will develop steers which will command a premium on any market in the country, as well as get weights which will more than reimburse him for the additional expense required in producing steers of merit, rather than the ordinary run of range cattle which usually go to market weighing in the neighborhood of 1,000 pounds as three-year-olds and sell from 50 cents to \$1 below the prices realized for the thick, blocky roan steers which represent their breed. Too frequently anything red is classified as a Shorthorn, even though it may not possess a drop of such blood.

## Herefords on the Range

BY JOHN M. HAZELTON

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COLUMNS COULD BE COMPILED composed entirely of testimonials of range cattlemen to the superiority of the Herefords for the range; to the larger calf crops where Hereford bulls are used; to the superior endurance of the Whitefaces; to the fact that they will be found out hustling for food in bad weather while cattle of other breeds are bunched up waiting for the storm to pass; to the fact that they will travel farther in search of feed and water in times of drought;

and to the fact that they invariably come through the winter in better flesh than other breeds, and put on flesh more rapidly when grass comes.

"During the severe winters of 1889 and 1890 I lost about 30,000 cattle, or nearly 65 per cent of my entire herd," said the late Governor John Sparks, of Reno, Nev. "The Herefords at that time constituted about 40 per cent of the herd, and I found that of the entire number surviving the second winter at least 90 per cent

were Whitefaces, showing conclusively their superior constitution."

"As cattle for the open range country, the Herefords are pre-eminently the best adapted to combat the vicissitudes of the climate, and will produce very good beef cattle under very trying circumstances; also, the Hereford bull will get more calves than the bull of any other breed under like circumstances," said W. A. Morgan, of Burrton, Kan., formerly one of the leading cattlemen of the Southwest.

Captain J. B. Gillett, of Marfa, Tex., one of the leading cattlemen of the noted Big Bend district, once related that he bought thirty-five bulls in November, 1897, fourteen of which were Herefords and the remainder Shorthorns. During the first cold spell of December he found the twenty-one Shorthorn bulls bunched up at the gate at one end of the pasture. "From appearances, they had walked the road from one gate to the other, about nine miles apart, two or three times, evidently hunting for a haystack," he said. "Not one of the fourteen Hereford bulls was in the bunch. I had to feed those twenty-one Shorthorn bulls all winter, while the fourteen Hereford bulls remained with the range herd. As soon as the grass came I sold those twenty-one Shorthorn bulls, and have never owned any except Herefords since."

"One of the worst storms in the history of this country began February 21, 1912," writes A. M. Dunn, of Clayton, N. M. "Snow fell for several days, followed by sleet which left a crust on the snow and made it impossible for the cattle on the range to get at the grass. When the blizzard began, Union County, N. M., was covered with cattle—mostly grades, very much mixed as to breeding. When grass came in the following spring, the Whitefaces were about all that were left. During the prevalence of the storm there were days at a time when the cattle had nothing to eat except sagebrush and soapweed."

"As 'rustlers' the Herefords are surpassed by no breed of beef cattle, and they excel the Shorthorns in this respect," says Farmers' Bulletin No. 612, issued January 21, 1915, by the Department of Agriculture. "They have been recognized as a breed which responds readily to a favorable environment, as well as being able to thrive under adverse conditions where other breeds would not do well. On scant pastures, and on the open range where water-holes are far apart, the Hereford has shown its merit. The bulls are active, vigorous, prepotent, and very sure breeders."

The practical immunity of the Hereford from tuberculosis, which is each year working greater havoc among cattle of other breeds, beef as well as dairy, is so pronounced as to be entitled to be classed as a fixed characteristic of the breed. This immunity extends, to a large degree, to the offspring of registered Hereford bulls when mated with scrub or grade cows. The

superiority of the Hereford over other beef breeds in its freedom from tuberculosis has been brought strikingly to the attention of the beef-cattle growers of the country during the past two years, during which time the federal government, co-operating with the state live-stock sanitary authorities, has been carrying on an active crusade against this disease. In the testing of herds for the accredited tuberculosis-free list so few reactors have been found among herds of registered Herefords as to render the proportion negligible. A few months ago J. W. Greenleaf, of Greensburg, Kan., one of the leading cattlemen of the West, had his entire herd of 642 registered Herefords and 300 grade Herefords tested by federal and state veterinarians, and not a single reactor was found. Many similar experiences might be cited. In view of the stringent regulations now being enforced against the movement of cattle interstate, and the certainty that this crusade against tuberculosis will be continued by the federal and state authorities until every herd in the country can show a clean bill of health, this practical immunity from tuberculosis is a highly important characteristic of the Herefords.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the Hereford is its prolificacy. Range cattlemen have frequently noted the fact that their calf crops were larger where Hereford bulls were used on the range than where bulls of other beef breeds were used. Murdo Mackenzie, manager of the Matador Land and Cattle Company—one of the biggest outfits ever in the Southwest—gave as one of the principal reasons for his partiality to the Herefords this quality of prolificacy. His calf crop on the range, he said, usually ran from 70 to 80 per cent when he used Hereford bulls. At one time he put in bulls of another breed, and the calf crop dropped to 40 per cent. A return to the use of Hereford bulls was quickly reflected in the increase in the percentage of calves.

The early maturity of the Hereford is a characteristic too well known to require extended comment. It is one of the qualities that endear the Hereford to the Corn Belt feeder; for it makes the Whiteface the foremost producer of the popular "baby beef." The market letters of many leading live-stock commission men testify to the fact that Whiteface stockers and feeders regularly command a premium of from 50 cents to \$2 a hundred over cattle of like quality of other beef breeds. Fully 75 per cent of the market toppers are range-bred Whitefaces finished in Corn Belt feed-lots. The grand champion carload of beeves at the Chicago International in 1918 were high-grade Herefords bred in Texas and finished in Illinois. Practically every new market record made during the past two years has been made by Herefords. The grand champion carloads of beef cattle at Denver and Fort Worth in 1919 were Herefords.

Briefly summarized, the reasons why the Herefords are preferable to other beef breeds on the range are:



They are hardier of constitution and better rustlers; they are less particular about their feed, and will thrive where other breeds will starve; they are more prolific, and the bulls are more prepotent, resulting in larger crops of better calves from grade cows; they enjoy practical immunity from tuberculosis; they mature earlier; on grass they fatten earlier in the season, and are ready

for market before prices break under heavy runs; under like circumstances, they take on gains faster and go to market carrying more pounds than other breeds; and stockers and feeders carrying a predominance of Hereford blood command a premium on the markets which amounts to from \$5 to \$10 a head over cattle of similar quality of other breeds.

## Pro and Con

### Arizona

**A**T A SPECIAL MEETING of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, held in Phoenix November 10, 1919, and called for the purpose of considering pending meat-packing legislation, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 35 to 18:

WHEREAS, The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, in convention assembled in Phoenix, Ariz., on the 11th, 12th, and 13th days of February, 1919, indorsed, with reservations, the Kendrick bill; and

WHEREAS, Recent further investigation develops the fact that the interests of the producer and the consumer will not be subserved by the passing of such legislation; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, in special convention assembled (pursuant to the action of the executive committee) on this 10th day of November, 1919, do hereby rescind the action of the convention of February 11, 12, and 13, 1919, indorsing the said Kendrick bill, and hereby protest the passage of this bill in its present form, or of like legislation. But we do recommend sane and businesslike legislation that will bring about investigation, examination, and publication of conditions connected with the packing industry; and we further recommend that a committee be appointed by the president of this association to go to Washington and appear before any committee holding hearings on such bills, and present the action of this organization.

It is not clear just what is meant by the "sane and businesslike legislation" recommended in this resolution. Probably the committee that is to go to Washington will embody its views in a measure which will be presented at the next hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture. When the Arizona committee begins to formulate its principles into a legislative measure, it is not unlikely that it may reach the conclusion that the Kendrick bill is about as "sane and businesslike" a piece of legislation as can be constructed. At all events, a careful study of this question is most desirable from every viewpoint, and we hope that every stockman in the West will take the time to examine the pending legislation thoroughly, and submit his views to his senators and representatives in Congress. Out of the divergent opinions some concrete basis for legislation should be evolved.

The Arizona association, however, seems to be badly split in its views on this legislation; for, after the meeting in Phoenix on the 10th, those present who

avored the Kendrick bill sent a telegram to the members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, as follows:

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association met here today, with 53 present out of a total membership of 1,400, and, by a vote of 35 to 18, rescinded the action of the convention last February indorsing the Kendrick bill. This was largely brought about through the influence of the packers and packer-controlled loan companies, who were strongly represented. Active packer propaganda has been systematically conducted throughout the state by agents of the packers or packer loan companies for the purpose of confusing the issue. We consider this vote today no indication of the real feeling of the independent stockmen of this state. When the hearing before the Senate committee is resumed, a body of representative, independent stockmen from Arizona will be prepared to testify in favor of federal control of the packing industry.

Thus Arizona will be represented at the next hearing on the meat-packing legislation by two committees—one strongly favoring the Kendrick bill and the other espousing a different remedy.

### California

The California Cattlemen's Association held a meeting in San Francisco on November 5-8, 1919, and unanimously approved the report of its marketing committee, which contained the following resolution:

WHEREAS, It is generally recognized that abuses exist in the handling of meat and meat products, and that some regulation should be provided to correct such abuses; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the California Cattlemen's Association favors such federal government regulation as will free the live-stock producer, and the marketing of live stock and live-stock products, from such abuses.

The California Wool Growers' Association also held a special meeting in San Francisco on November 7, to consider the Kenyon-Kendrick bills, at which a resolution was adopted condemning these measures as being too radical and calculated to "cause injury, not only to the packers, but to the live-stock producers and consumers." The association, however, went on record as favoring some form of legislation, as will be noted from the following extract from the resolution:

WHEREAS, We believe that the packing industry, the operators of stock-yards, and live-stock commission merchants are all in need of sane governmental regulation and control, and that the only way to stop this agitation of the meat question is to pass a sane and constructive regulative measure; be it further

*Resolved*, That we just as urgently ask our representatives in Congress to secure the enactment of a fair, reasonable, and sane bill, placing packers, stock-yards, and commission merchants under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture, and that that department be given full authority to prevent all unfair practices in connection with the marketing of live stock and distribution of meat products, and to establish rules and regulations under which the business must be conducted.

### Nevada

The October issue of the *Nevada Stockman* is authority for the statement that the executive committee of the Nevada Live Stock Association believed that the passage of this meat-packing legislation "would do the producer more harm than good, the general fear being that in any upset which might occur the producer would suffer through unstable marketing conditions."

If anyone can recall a time when the packers paid a higher price for live stock than they could force the seller to take, we wish he would refer us to that period. Packers buy live stock as low as they can; producers try to sell it as high as they can. If the packers thought this legislation would enable them to obtain a better grip on the live-stock markets, it is reasonable to suppose that they would favor it, instead of maintaining their extensive and expensive agencies to defeat it. We suggest that the executive committee of the Nevada Live Stock Association study this question further.

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An editorial in the November issue of the *National Wool Grower*, the official organ of the National Wool Growers' Association, condemns the Kendrick-Kenyon bills, with a good many reservations and additions—about as many as certain senators wanted to write into the Peace Treaty. We quote the following extract from this editorial:

However, we are sincerely desirous that sane, decent legislation be passed regulating the entire system of marketing live stock and meat. We want government supervision, not only of the packing industry, but of the stock-yards and the commission men as well. We would have the Department of Agriculture empowered to establish a uniform system of bookkeeping for the packer, and have men constantly in the accounting departments, so that they would always know exactly what and where the packers' profit came from. We would have the government supervise the weighing of all stock, and empower it to make rules and regulations that would place the packer above suspicion. In the yards, the government should regulate the weighing of hay, the condition of the yards, and the charges to be made. With the commission man, the government should have full authority to regulate the charges made, as well as be authorized to make rules and regulations for the sale of all live stock, and should have complete access to all commission books as well as those of the speculators. While we believe the speculator fills a want in all stock-yards, yet we would go as far as possible to protect stockmen against speculator manipulations. What we should like to see is the passage of a bill that would prevent any dishonest or unfair practice in connection with the marketing of live stock. The size of our packers does not concern us at all—the bigger the business, the better for the interest of the stockman. If we had

to go back to doing business with the little butcher and independent packer, we should give up in despair. Let our packers handle the entire meat business, even to the retail shop; take nothing away from them that is needed to handle the meat traffic; but give us fair and decent regulations under the United States Department of Agriculture.

We hope there is a proverbial "Philadelphia lawyer" on the Senate Committee of Agriculture who can correctly sense and interpret the widely divergent views and resolutions that have been unloaded on Washington by various live-stock associations. All the different organizations which have considered the meat-packing legislation are convinced that some kind of legislation is needed. Some oppose the Kendrick-Kenyon bills as being too mild and ineffective; others oppose them as being too radical. Legislation is always a compromise, and this meat-packing measure will prove to be no exception.

### THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

**A** MOVEMENT fraught with great promise began to take definite shape when, about the middle of November, delegates from the farm bureau federations of thirty states met in Chicago for the purpose of co-ordinating their activities through the medium of a national organization. It has long been realized in agricultural circles that a strong central agency was needed to safeguard the common interests of farmers in different sections of the country, compelling recognition of the influence to which their importance indisputably entitles them. With the birth of the American Farm Bureau Federation this goal, we are convinced, has been measurably approached. Under competent leadership the new organization should quickly develop into one of the most potent factors in the economic life of the nation.

Considerable divergence of opinion was manifested at the convention as to what should constitute the chief field of activity of the federation. Delegates from the Middle West, where the movement had its inception, were a unit in maintaining that its main purpose should be the promotion of the business interests of the farmer, helping him to secure a fair price for his products, entirely independent of federal or other outside agencies. Representatives from the East and South, on the other hand, had in mind an organization devoted principally to increased production through the adoption of better farming methods, under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture and the state agricultural colleges. This disagreement naturally was reflected in the methods proposed for financing the organization; the county agents in the South and East being supported largely by funds received from the federal government and through state taxation, while farmers from the Corn Belt have been raising their own money. Eventually a compromise was reached which finds



expression in the clause of the proposed constitution declaring it to be the object of the federation "to promote, protect, and represent the business, economic, social, and educational interests of the farmers of the nation, and to develop agriculture."

The membership of the federation is to consist of state farm bureau federations and state agricultural associations based on the farm-bureau or a similar plan. Its affairs are to be managed by a board of directors consisting of one member from each state, and an additional director for each twenty thousand paid memberships—all to be bona-fide farmers. To sit with the directors and enjoy all privileges except that of voting is a "house of delegates" composed of one member from each state and an additional delegate for each ten thousand members. The annual dues are to be 10 per cent of the total individual farm membership dues, and, for states having no paid memberships, from \$250 to \$1,000, in the discretion of the executive committee.

J. R. Howard, of Iowa, was elected president, and S. L. Strivings, of New York, vice-president, to continue in office until March 3, 1920, when permanent organization will be effected by delegates from states having ratified the constitution.

From resolutions adopted setting forth the aims and principles of the new organization, we quote as follows:

We declare our independence of affiliation with any commercial, labor, or industrial organization, but maintain a co-operative attitude toward all movements promoting the welfare of American institutions. . . .

We desire to point out that a large factor in the high cost of living is the curtailing of production through shorter hours, lessened efficiency of labor, and strikes. We declare our willingness to maintain a high degree of production, and invite all other classes to join us in thus relieving the world from the dire results of the war.

We approve the federal land banks, and request that the maximum individual loan be changed from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

We recognize that land-ownership is only a stewardship; that ownership does not give the right to soil depletion; and we deplore the system of tenantry that encourages a rapid reduction of soil fertility.

When state or federal government grants corporate rights to any organization, it is incumbent on that government to protect the public through such regulating legislation as will best prevent favoritism, stimulate initiative, and guarantee adequate public service. We favor as rapidly as possible all corporations doing interstate business to be under federal charter, and all other corporations to be incorporated under the laws of the state in which their principal business is located.

We are opposed to government ownership of public utilities. We demand the early return of the railroads to private control, under such conditions and regulations as will render adequate service at just and equitable rates. We particularly demand immediate attention to restoring the efficiency of livestock and other perishable transportation, both in car equipment and train schedules.

Recognizing the economic law that impels the consolidation of business, we proclaim that relief from the extortion of monopoly in manufacture and commerce is to be found in co-

operation, in enforced publicity of business records, and in a just, graduated income tax, rather than through interference with the economic law upon which great industries are founded.

We recommend such regulation of all purveyors of food-stuffs—including packers, wholesale grocers, commission men, and all similar industries—in such manner as will be absolutely fair to the industries as well as to producers and consumers.

. . . We do commend the extension work of the Department of Agriculture through the land-grant colleges of the several states. We commend especially the Bureau of Farm Management, and we believe the work of the Bureau of Markets and Bureau of Crop Estimates should be vitalized and adequately supported to meet the needs of agriculture. . . .

With few exceptions, in the past forty years the farmer's sole profit has come from unreturned fertility taken from the soil, and from long hours of work and unpaid labor of women and children. We insist that these are legitimate factors in the cost of food production, and must be so recognized by the commercial interests and general public. We assert the farmer is entitled to a just profit on cost of production on all products, with these items properly accounted for, with due consideration to the hazardous risks he encounters, and with a wage allowance for his own labor and ability commensurate to that received in other occupations.

We recognize our great obligation to the returned soldiers and sailors, and recommend the appointment of a committee of three of our board of directors to act with the American Legion in devising means of getting returned soldiers reinstated into civil life. . . .

This organization recognizes that the strength and origin of the American Federation of Farm Bureaus has been achieved through co-operation with the state and federal departments of agriculture, upon a sound educational program of local work. We declare it to be our purpose to continue such co-operation in the future, and that neither business enterprise nor legislative activity should diminish such co-operative educational activities. We urge the strengthening of the county organization, financially and otherwise, so that capable men may be employed to manage the work of the county organization. . . .

We are unqualifiedly in sympathy with the government's determination to suppress radicalism, and lend our full support to all efforts to rid this country of Bolshevism and all other anarchistic tendencies. . . .

THE PRODUCER congratulates the farmers on taking this important step. We earnestly believe that through the formation of this organization an instrument has been created which will prove a powerful aid in securing for them economic justice. Nothing less is their due, and with nothing less will they be content.

## "WHY UNCLE SAM SHOULD SUPERVISE THE MEAT BUSINESS"

A PAMPHLET bearing the above title has been issued by the Government Printing Office. It contains the full text of the Kendrick-Kenyon bills, a statement by Senator Kendrick, and some correspondence between L. F. Swift and Senator Thomas, of Colorado. A copy of this pamphlet can be secured on request to the American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colo.

## LIVE-STOCK TRADE IN 1919

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PONDERING over what happened in commercial live-stock circles during 1919 will profit the trade student little. Conditions were unprecedented, abnormal, and will probably never be duplicated. Such price statistics as are furnished herewith constitute the record of what has doubtless been the most exasperating, and uncertain, set of markets in trade history, not excepting the Civil War period. But one deduction may be profitably drawn therefrom, and it is that the big bullock, which acquired temporary popularity regardless of quality during the war period, has again been relegated to a back seat. Feeders who took their cue from war demand, filling up with heavy cattle in expectancy that Europe would continue to buy North American beef, have paid the penalty of misplaced confidence, as most of such cattle were marketed at a loss.

No cattle-price records were made during the year. On the April high spot \$20.35 was registered, against \$20.50 in December, 1918; and in November \$20.50 was paid for culls from show herds at the International. This dissertation, being written December 1, does not include December trade. The disastrous period of the year was subsequent to the April break, when values depreciated \$4 to \$5 per cwt. as rapidly as it could consistently be taken off, catching feeders with many thousand big cattle on hand, many of which were liquidated, others being carried along for months until the visible supply was reduced to such miniature proportions that in October values began to crawl up, record-making being resumed in November. Much of the crop was liquidated at heavy loss, however, and it is doubtful if any of the long-fed bullocks that finally earned anywhere from \$19.50 to \$20.50 actually paid for their board, as they were the costliest set of cattle to the producer that ever went to the shambles.

Top prices for fat cattle at Chicago for 1919, with comparisons in recent years, are given below. Late in the season these tops were deceptive, as the few prime cattle available sold out of line with the bulk of grassers and short-feds; but the comparison of tops is interesting, especially when measured by pre-war-period quotations:

TOP PRICES ON CATTLE BY MONTHS

Month	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913
January.....	\$20.00	\$14.30	\$11.95	\$ 9.85	\$9.70	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.50
February.....	20.10	14.50	12.25	9.75	9.50	9.75	9.25
March.....	20.40	14.75	12.95	10.05	9.15	9.75	9.30
April.....	20.35	17.60	13.50	10.00	8.90	9.55	9.25
May.....	19.75	17.75	13.70	11.05	9.65	9.60	9.10
June.....	16.40	18.00	13.90	11.50	9.95	9.45	9.20
July.....	18.40	18.75	14.15	11.20	10.40	10.00	9.20
August.....	19.50	18.90	16.50	11.50	10.50	10.90	9.25
September.....	18.00	19.60	17.90	11.50	10.50	11.05	9.50
October.....	19.50	19.70	17.50	11.65	10.60	11.00	9.75
November.....	20.25	19.75	17.25	12.50	10.55	11.00	9.85
December.....		20.50	16.25	12.60	11.60	11.40	10.25
Year.....	\$20.40	\$20.50	\$17.90	\$12.60	\$11.60	\$11.40	\$10.25

A more comprehensive idea of the market may be obtained from the subjoined exhibit of spreads, from which it will be seen that the range was wide—probably the widest in trade history—especially during the latter half of the year, when the market was glutted with western drought refugees:

RANGE OF CATTLE PRICES BY MONTHS

Month	Range	Bulk
January.....	\$10.00-20.00	\$14.00-18.25
February.....	10.50-20.10	14.50-18.25
March.....	12.25-20.40	14.25-18.25
April.....	12.50-20.35	14.00-18.25
May.....	12.25-19.75	13.50-17.50
June.....	10.00-16.40	11.75-14.75
July.....	9.50-18.40	12.75-17.75
August.....	9.25-19.50	13.50-19.00
September.....	8.75-18.00	13.00-17.00
October.....	8.50-19.50	12.50-18.00
November.....	8.00-20.25	11.00-17.50

The swine trade was even more erratic than the cattle market. Early in the year government control exerted a restricting influence; when that was removed, a period of prosperity ensued, culminating in the \$23 market of August, when a \$23.60 top was made at Chicago. The subsequent slump recorded a net depreciation of \$10 per cwt. before the tide turned, a \$3 reaction following the market later in the year, jumping about in mystifying manner, with weekly mutations of \$1.50 to \$2 per head. After the big slump the limit was \$15.50, packers buying the bulk of their hogs late in the year at \$13 to \$14. The trend of market events during the year may be gleaned from the following tables, showing tops and ranges by months:

TOP PRICES ON HOGS BY MONTHS

Month	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913
January.....	\$18.00	\$16.90	\$12.00	\$ 8.10	\$ 7.40	\$ 8.60	\$ 7.80
February.....	18.15	17.70	13.55	8.90	7.25	8.90	8.70
March.....	19.95	18.15	15.55	10.10	7.05	9.00	9.62½
April.....	21.15	18.10	16.50	10.35	7.90	8.95	9.70
May.....	21.55	18.30	16.65	10.15	7.95	8.67½	8.85
June.....	21.60	17.35	16.17½	10.25	7.95	8.52½	9.00
July.....	23.60	19.40	16.30	11.55	8.12½	9.30	9.62½
August.....	23.50	20.30	20.00	11.60	8.05	10.20	9.40
September.....	21.00	20.95	19.70	10.55	8.50	9.75	9.65
October.....	17.20	19.95	19.65	10.35	8.95	9.05	9.10
November.....	15.50	18.60	18.10	10.80	7.75	8.25	8.30
December.....		18.00	17.75	11.60	7.10	7.75	8.15
Year.....	\$23.60	\$20.95	\$20.00	\$11.60	\$ 8.95	\$10.20	\$ 9.70

RANGE OF HOG PRICES BY MONTHS

Month	Mixed, Packing, Mediums, and Butchers, 195-255 lbs.	Heavy Packing and Selected Shipping, 255-400 lbs.	Light Packing and Selected Shipping, 135-195 lbs.
January.....	\$16.75-18.00	\$16.50-18.00	\$16.50-17.95
February.....	16.75-18.15	16.50-18.15	16.50-18.00
March.....	17.25-19.90	16.50-19.95	16.50-19.80
April.....	19.40-21.10	18.75-21.15	19.25-21.00
May.....	19.50-21.50	19.25-21.55	19.50-21.25
June.....	19.00-21.60	18.50-21.55	19.50-21.55
July.....	20.00-23.60	19.50-23.45	20.65-23.50
August.....	15.00-23.50	14.50-23.40	16.75-23.50
September.....	14.25-21.00	14.00-20.40	15.50-20.60
October.....	11.75-17.20	11.50-16.90	12.00-17.10
November.....	12.40-15.50	12.00-15.40	12.25-15.40

Live-mutton trade displayed more stability than other branches of the market. The usual high point developed during the Colorado season, early western lambs found a good market, but between liquidation incidental to the drought and a heavy crop of mature lambs the August-to-December market was more or less demoralized. The situation was saved for the western breeder during the period of enforced liquidation by the purchasing capacity of Corn Belt, particularly Iowa, farmers, who bought thin lambs in ravenous manner; otherwise prices would have ranged 2 to 3 cents a pound lower. The range of the market during the year is indicated by the following table:

RANGE OF SHEEP AND LAMB PRICES BY MONTHS

Month	Sheep		Lambs	
	Bulk	Top	Bulk	Top
January.....	\$ 9.00-11.75	\$12.00	\$15.50-17.25	\$17.50
February.....	9.25-13.25	13.75	16.00-18.75	19.00
March.....	12.00-15.25	17.15	17.25-20.50	21.00
April.....	12.50-16.40	17.25	15.75-20.25	20.50
May.....	9.50-15.50	16.50	13.75-20.00	20.50
June.....	7.00-11.00	11.75	11.00-15.75	17.50
July.....	7.50-11.25	11.50	16.00-18.00	18.25
August.....	8.00-11.00	11.50	15.00-18.00	18.25
September.....	7.00-9.50	10.50	13.50-15.75	16.25
October.....	7.00-10.10	10.75	14.00-15.75	16.00
November.....	7.75-10.25	10.50	13.50-15.00	15.10



# THE PRODUCER

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## The Convention

The Twenty-third Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association will be held in Spokane, Wash., on January 27, 28, and 29, 1920; sessions commencing at 10 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, January 27.

\* \* \*

One of the big questions for consideration at the Spokane meeting is the meat-packing legislation now before Congress. The intent and purposes of this remedial legislation, findings of the Federal Trade Commission, and the lengthy hearings in Washington will be fully presented by the Market Committee of the association, and by other speakers of national importance. Those opposed to the legislation will be given an opportunity to present their views.

Among other questions for consideration are:

Federal control of public grazing lands; administration of national forests; possible reduction in number of head of stock permitted on the national forests; trails, driveways, etc.; the 640-acre stock-raising homestead bill; grazing in national parks.

Railroad legislation and service; threatened advance in railroad rates; shortage of stock cars.

Exports of live stock and its products; probable European demand for meat products; im-

ports from other surplus countries; necessity for import duties on live stock and meats.

Prohibition of importation of live stock and meats from countries where contagious diseases exist; eradication of animal diseases.

Service at markets; licensing of stock-yards and commission men; work of the Bureau of Markets; appropriations for the Bureau of Animal Industry.

On account of the policy of the Railroad Administration not to grant reductions in passenger fares to any gatherings, there will be no special rates to Spokane.

The city of Spokane is arranging to entertain all delegates and visitors. Hotel accommodations can be reserved by communicating with John H. Roberts, secretary of the Spokane Union Stock Yards Company, Spokane, Wash. We suggest that everyone planning to attend the convention make his reservations promptly. The Committee on Arrangements at Spokane is pledged to secure adequate accommodations for all. Every stockman is invited to attend the big meeting.

\* \* \*

The Fifty-fifth Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers' Association will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 19, 20, and 21, 1920.

## THE PEOPLE WANT PEACE!

**A**FTER FOUR MONTHS OF WRANGLING, with the country's patience strained to the breaking-point, the Senate on November 19 rejected the Peace Treaty. Eighty senators favored ratification in some form; fourteen senators were opposed to ratification in any form. The fourteen prevailed against the eighty. Thus a small minority was allowed to shape the course of this great democracy, with its supposedly representative form of government, in one of the most momentous crises in its history.

This result cannot be permitted to stand. The American people will not accept it. They want peace. They want a return, quick and definitive, to normal conditions—with our workers at work, our producers with incentive to produce, our foodstuffs and manufactures and raw materials flowing again in a steady, untrammelled stream through the trade channels of the world. Strife and turmoil, uncertainty and apprehension, the country has had enough. We gave our sons and our substance to help bring victory to a righteous cause.

Shall we then be the very ones to withhold from our people the fruits of our triumph?

And, having secured peace, the American people want to see it maintained. They want to see some agency created that will render it increasingly dangerous and difficult for any covetous or revengeful ruler or group of intriguers to wage a war of aggression in the future. The covenant of the League of Nations, as at present drawn, may not be a flawless document—no sane man would expect it with one stroke to usher in the millennium. But it responds to a universal yearning. It represents a long and important step in the right direction. Through the devoted labors of some of the world's best minds an instrument has been evolved which, with loyal good-will and renunciation of purely selfish motives on the part of all signatories, could have been made into a mighty force for good. It laid the solid cornerstone—imperfections in the superstructure time and experience would correct.

America's opportunity lies at her door. The peoples of the earth are looking to us to bring order out of chaos, prosperity and happiness out of ruin and despair. Shall we then disappoint them? Shall we repudiate our obligations to humanity? Shall we, by breaking faith with all mankind, turn a world of friends into a world of foes? Shall we stand back in selfish isolation and provincial complacency while the nations which we helped to save sink back into the abyss of hunger and anarchy? Shall we, who gave birth and the breath of life to the ideal of a brotherhood of peoples, strangle our own child at the very threshold of its existence?

We demand peace—peace restored and peace preserved. We demand of our senators—that large majority who have the necessary votes, and who therefore have all the responsibility—that they get together, without further delay, and agree on a plan that will bring an end to this intolerable situation. If they continue to let petty party politics and personal animosities stand in the way of a just and speedy settlement of this all-over-shadowing issue, they will find, when the day of reckoning comes, that they have as woefully as incomprehensibly mistaken the temper of the American people.

Ratify the Peace Treaty!

### BRAHMA, HERFORD, OR SHORTHORN—WHICH?

IN THIS ISSUE we present three articles concisely setting forth the relative merits of the Brahma, the Hereford, and the Shorthorn as the type of animal best adapted to range conditions. The advocate of each class is an acknowledged authority on the subject with which he deals, and quite naturally is a strong partisan of his favorite breed. Making whatever discounts may seem equitable, from a study of these various pleas our readers will be able to gather valuable material for a just comparison.

### GENERAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

FAILING THE STIMULUS that ratification of the Peace Treaty would have provided, and with the deadlock in the coal strike continuing, manufacturing activities, especially in the West, show appreciable curtailment. While the shutting-down of factories is not yet serious, it is bound to assume larger proportions with the exhaustion of present fuel supplies. Prompt relief of the coal shortage alone can save the situation.

Counterbalancing this industrial depression has been a marked activity in trade. Our October foreign commerce again set a new record. While imports are maintaining their encouraging upward trend, it is still the export side that continues to swell the figures. How long this tremendous outflow of goods, with nothing in sight with which to pay for them, can go on without disastrous results is matter for speculation. That the situation is a decidedly unwholesome one cannot be disputed; and our senators might have done well to consider this.

A comparison of our October exports and imports with those of September this year and October last year presents this aspect:

	Oct., 1919	Sept., 1919	Oct., 1918
Exports .....	\$632,000,000	\$593,308,722	\$503,099,465
Imports .....	416,000,000	435,446,652	246,766,586
Excess of exports..	\$216,000,000	\$157,862,070	\$256,332,879

The iron and steel industries report a growing demand, with prices responding promptly. Textiles exhibit a similar condition. Cotton goods are back at their previous high level.

The stock market is quiet. Money has eased on call, with supplies restricted. Liberty bonds are being extensively liquidated, in anticipation of holiday buying and income-tax returns. Foreign exchange continues demoralized.

Foodstuffs have registered another advance. *Bradstreet's* index for the week ending November 29, based on the prices per pound of thirty-one articles used for food, is \$5.10, compared with \$5.05 for the week before and \$4.93 for the corresponding week in 1918. This, however, is a decline of 3.7 per cent from the high point reached in July.

The holiday trade, from all reports, bids fair to eclipse all previous records. Despite "hard times" and inflated values, people everywhere are spending money recklessly. This curious psychological phenomenon can scarcely fail to be taken advantage of by purveyors, and react on prices to the public's further undoing. The profiteer, serene behind the plea of "demand," cashes in the shekels with the curses.

\* \* \*

(As we go to press, news is received of the settlement of the coal strike.)



## STOCKMEN ABLE TO PADDLE THEIR OWN CANOE

**A**N EDITORIAL in the November 6 issue of the *Denver Daily Record-Stockman*—a partisan organ of the packers—laments the fact that “the packer, the stock-yard company, and the live-stock exchange are not even permitted membership” in the American National Live Stock Association, and states that “an organization representing the live-stock industry in a national way, to be effective, must represent every branch of the industry.” The editorial further recites that “the packers, the commission men, and the stock-yards were ready fifteen years ago to meet the producers half-way in an organization.” The *Record-Stockman* claims that the American National Live Stock Association has been ineffective because of the absence of these other interests from its membership.

Many stockmen will recall the effort made, about fifteen years ago, to convert the old National Live Stock Association into an organization in which the packers, stock-yard companies, commission men, and railroads would have the controlling voice. The majority of the stockmen in the old association did not then relish that kind of an organization, and, withdrawing, formed the American National Live Stock Association. They viewed the Trojan horse with suspicion. Or, to change the simile, in such an organization they feared they would be in the same position as that of the ducks who, according to the ancient fable, made an agreement with the mules not to tread on one another's feet. We do not believe the majority, even now, favor such a hybrid organization as was then proposed, and as is now advocated by the *Record-Stockman*.

The American National Live Stock Association stands ready at all times to co-operate along lines of mutual interest with all other agencies concerned in the marketing and slaughtering of live stock and the distribution of its products. Stockmen are not averse to conferring with correlated interests, and are glad to have advice and information which may aid them in reaching right conclusions. But when it comes to voting on matters that mostly or solely concern themselves, they feel that they are able to get along without the votes of other interests.

The big packers have not yet invited the stockmen to “sit in” with them and pass on the conduct of the meat-packing business. The live-stock exchanges have never volunteered to take stockmen into their councils and admit them to membership. The packer-owned stock-yards company has never yet asked a stockman to represent the interests of the stock-raisers on its board of directors. The railroads do not want the vote of the stockmen in the settlement of their problems. Then why should stockmen want the packers, commission firms, stock-yard companies, and railroads in their organization? Will some stockman or periodical not controlled by the packers stand up and answer?

## FIGHT ON SCABIES SHOULD BE KEPT UP

**A**BOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO, when scabies in cattle and sheep was rampant on the range and in many of the feed-lots, the Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Animal Industry, started a systematic campaign for its eradication. This work was first directed toward scabies in sheep, but a few years later was extended to cattle. The states co-operated in varying degrees, but most of the supervisory work was done by the federal government, which likewise defrayed the greater part of the expense. At first there were plenty of stockmen who were unwilling to assist in eradicating this disease. Some thought scabies could not be stamped out; that it was inherent in both cattle and sheep, and would recur when conditions were favorable, regardless of any precautions. For that reason it was necessary for the government to be invested with power to compel refractory stockmen to dip their stock. This authority was granted in the law and regulations prohibiting the movement of infected stock interstate. Under these restrictions, stockmen who intended to ship out of the state had to comply with the federal regulations.

That scabies can be eradicated was thoroughly demonstrated. After a few years the range territory was practically clean of this infection. As in all similar cases, however, eternal vigilance is the price of safety, and it was necessary for the representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the various states to keep a close watch at the markets, on the range, and in the feed-lots, to detect and quarantine infected localities, and to require general dipping. In the conduct of this work for the first few years the federal government spent a great deal of money in keeping the necessary force in the field. After most of the territory had been cleaned up, the expense was correspondingly reduced. During the past few years the appropriations for the Bureau of Animal Industry have not permitted so thorough a supervision over this disease as had been maintained earlier, and the authorities of western states, largely through similar lack of funds, have not been able to perform the work formerly done by the federal government. Stockmen have become more careless, and consequently, in some sections of the West, the disease has reappeared in many places, causing great expense and the dipping of entire herds in order to be certain of treating the infected animals. At present only limited areas are affected, but unless prompt action is taken the territory will extend.

Scabies is not a disease which kills the infected animals. Sometimes it may so weaken them that bad storms will cause greater losses. It does, however, seriously affect the general health of the stock, and stockmen who are so unfortunate as to ship animals affected with scabies, and have them handled in quarantined pens at the market, will know how the sale price is reduced. Congress has been very liberal in granting

appropriations to the Bureau of Animal Industry for the control of contagious and infectious diseases—more so than the interested states. One of the chief difficulties in securing adequate appropriations from the federal government is the lack of co-operative effort on the part of the states in doing a proper share of the work and appropriating money to defray a fair proportion of the expense. Some of the states have assumed the attitude of "let George do it;" and "George," who in this instance is the appropriation committees in Congress, is inclined to balk. He wants some reciprocal action from the interested states, and he thinks a fifty-fifty basis is about right. From now on it will be increasingly difficult to secure appropriations from Congress for this class of disease eradication, unless the states evince a proper spirit of co-operation. This applies to all other animal diseases as well as scabies. Nothing could be more important to stockmen and the general public than maintaining the health of our live stock and preventing disease. Stockmen are usually important factors in the legislatures of the western states. By proper legislative action, and through their state associations, they should see to it that the states assume a just share of this work.

### OVERGRAZING ON NATIONAL FORESTS

FROM VARIOUS LOCALITIES THE PRODUCER is receiving reports to the effect that considerable damage has been done by overgrazing on several of the national forests, and that a reduction in the number of stock permitted to graze on such forests is now, or soon will be, imperative, if their grazing value is to be maintained. This damage is not confined to regions where drought conditions caused a shortage of feed, but extends to localities not affected by the drought, and which would have carried the stock had it been properly handled and looked after. To some extent this situation may have been brought about by the lack of experienced men and efficient management of the forests resulting from many of the employees entering war work; but probably the biggest factor was the desire of the government to increase production, for which purpose grazing privileges on the forests were granted to a larger number of stock. It now seems plain that too much stock was permitted on many of the forests, and it will take several years to restore them to pre-war conditions. We believe that the officials of the national forests share this view, and that it is not unlikely that a reduction will be ordered for next season.

This will be one of the big questions for consideration at the forthcoming convention of the American National Live Stock Association. Pending any definite action on this proposition, stockmen should thoroughly inform themselves as to conditions on the forests, so that they may confer with the forest officials at the Spokane meeting. Under ideal circumstances the

national forests will graze only a certain number of animals; if more are permitted, the condition of all will be affected. It is much better for all concerned, the stockmen as well as the public, that the carrying capacity of the national forests be so adjusted that the stock will come off in good flesh. Undergrazing is better than overgrazing.

### NATIONAL GRANGE REFUSES TO MEET LABOR REPRESENTATIVES

THE NATIONAL GRANGE, in annual convention at Grand Rapids, Mich., on November 15, 1919, considered the invitation of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, to attend a conference in Washington, on December 13, between representatives of the labor organizations and the farmers, and by an overwhelming vote adopted the following reply:

The National Grange declines your invitation for a conference in Washington, December 13.

It was the view of the members of the Grange that there was nothing in common between agricultural interests and organized labor.

We regret that the Grange did not accept this invitation and attend the conference, so as to enlighten the leaders of organized labor as to the attitude of farmers on many of the principles for which union labor stands.

### COLORADO STOCKGROWERS' ASSOCIATION

THE ADVISORY BOARD of the Colorado Stockgrowers' Association, at a meeting held in Denver November 21, adopted resolutions to the following effect:

That the governor be requested to include in his call for an extra session of the legislature the repeal of the law providing for an open season on deer;

That Congress and the Forest Service be asked for an increase in the funds set aside for range improvement;

That legislation be enacted prohibiting or restricting the hunting with packs;

That the Forest Service be urged to adopt more flexible salting plans on the national forests, suited to the peculiar conditions of special localities;

That the Forest Service be asked to change the date of action on grazing permits on national forests from spring to fall.

The Colorado Stockgrowers' Association has organized a live-stock loan company to take care of the loans of its members. Subscriptions are being received, and the new company promises to become a large factor in the loan business of the state.

The *Denver Daily Record-Stockman* has been devoting a great deal of space to criticising the board of control of the Colorado Stockgrowers' Association for not reconsidering the action of the annual convention of that association last January, favoring meat-packing



legislation. Obviously, the board of control, even if it were so disposed, has no authority to modify the policy of the association. The packers and their supporters are conducting a most vigorous campaign with the object of prevailing upon the members of the Colorado association to change their attitude on this legislation.

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The annual convention of the Colorado Stock-growers' Association will be held at Denver, Colo., January 16 and 17, 1920.

### MONOPOLIZING THE SHEEP MARKET

**W**E ARE INFORMED that the Bureau of Markets, with such slender authority as it possesses, is investigating a case at Indianapolis involving an attempt to handle all the sheep on that market. It is rumored that a speculator named Gardiner organized the Indianapolis sheep market for his own special benefit—using coercion to secure his monopoly, and blacklisting every commission firm refusing to sell him sheep and lambs on practically his own terms. It is claimed that he secured a clearance by making a deal with Swift & Co. Commission men were whipped into line, and finally either approved the methods he employed or were induced to tolerate them. Gardiner apparently pursued the tactics which have been so successfully applied by traders and speculators at some of the various stock-yards. Many commission men are bitterly opposed to the restrictions imposed by traders; but they seemingly cannot help it, and therefore keep quiet about it. Federal regulation should cure part of this vicious practice.

### SERVICE AT STOCK-YARDS REPORTED BAD

**R**EPORTS are reaching THE PRODUCER from shippers and commission men to the effect that the service at many of the stock-yards is very bad, with but small prospect of improvement. As the government does not run the stock-yards, it cannot be charged with this dereliction. Packer efficiency does not seem to extend to giving good service at all times in all of the yards. Perhaps, if we could learn more about the conduct of the packing business, it might turn out that the boasted efficiency is not wholly without flaws.

### WOOL-GROWERS TO DEMAND PROTECTION

**L**EGISLATION NOW BEFORE CONGRESS providing for the labeling of all manufactured wool goods is to be vigorously supported by organizations of wool-growers throughout the country. A call has been issued by the Fleece Wool States Growers' Association for the purpose of co-ordinating efforts to that end. The National Wool Growers' Association has agreed to provide a fund of a cent a sheep to promote the passage of this bill. Several state associations of sheep- and wool-growers have taken similar action.

Besides the pure-fabric law, which is being opposed by manufacturers' organizations, as it would compel them to state exactly what their goods are made of, whether virgin wool, shoddy, or combinations of wool and cotton, another measure which is to receive the attention of the sheepmen is the proposed importation into this country of large quantities of Australian wool, previously mentioned in these pages. If the permission of the British government to dispose of 17,000,000 pounds of wool in the American market in the near future is allowed to stand, to be followed in 1920 by monthly lots of 16,000,000 pounds, as has been suggested, it is held that the price of next year's domestic clip is bound to be detrimentally affected.

Urgent demand is to be made on the government for the rescission of this import permit, which is deemed distinctly unfair to the American wool-grower, who responded loyally to the appeals for increased production during the war in order to make the United States independent of foreign supplies.

### OUR WOOL IMPORTS FOR TEN YEARS

**D**URING the fiscal years ending June 30, 1910 to 1919, wool was imported into the United States in the following quantities, according to statistics published by the Bureau of Markets:

Year	Pounds	Year	Pounds
1910.....	263,928,232	1915.....	308,083,429
1911.....	137,647,641	1916.....	534,828,022
1912.....	193,400,713	1917.....	372,372,218
1913.....	195,293,255	1918.....	379,129,934
1914.....	247,648,869	1919.....	422,414,664

### RECORD STOCKS OF WOOL REPORTED

**D**EALERS, manufacturers, and the government held 729,373,000 pounds of wool, grease equivalent, on September 30, 1919, according to the Bureau of Markets. This represents holdings in excess of those reported in any quarterly period since the reports were first issued. Stocks on September 30 were 8 per cent greater than on June 30, 1919, and 50 per cent greater than stocks held on September 30, 1918. At the present rate of consumption, the bureau points out, the total stocks on September 30 are sufficient to last for more than a year.

### THE CALENDAR

December 18-20, 1919—Fifth Annual Convention of Idaho Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, Payette, Idaho.

January 8-10, 1920—Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.

January 15-17, 1920 — Annual Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, Cheyenne, Wyo.

January 16-17, 1920 — Annual Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' Association, Denver, Colo.

January 17-24, 1920—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

January 19-21, 1920—Annual Convention of National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 27-29, 1920—Twenty-third Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Spokane, Wash.

January 29-31, 1920—Annual Convention of Kansas Live Stock Association, Wichita, Kan., in connection with Kansas National Live Stock Show.

March 10-15, 1920 — Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

March 16-18, 1920 — Forty-fourth Annual Convention of Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Houston, Tex.

# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

*THE PRODUCER invites the stockmen of the country to take advantage of its columns to present their views on problems of the day as they affect their industry. It solicits correspondence on topics of common concern, such as stock, crop, and weather conditions, doings of state and local organizations, records of transactions of more than individual interest. Make it your medium of exchange for live-stock information between the different sections of the stock-raising region. Address all communications to THE PRODUCER, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.*

## FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 4, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Congress assembled for the long session Monday, December 1, with the cloud of presidential politics obscuring the horizon. Never was there more uncertainty, and he would be a rash prophet indeed who would undertake now to predict what legislation the next few months will bring forth. One thing only may be stated with confidence, and that is that nothing will be done until after the new year.

Not even the railroad problem, pressing as it is acknowledged to be, can be disposed of before the holidays. It is true that the House at the last session hurried through the Esch bill; but even if the Senate were disposed to devote concentrated attention to the Cummins bill, it could not be enacted before the Christmas vacation, for Senator La Follette has given informal notice that he intends to talk on this measure. Other senators have similar plans, and a score or so amendments are certain to be proposed from the floor. It is an open secret that, if these amendments were put out of the way, La Follette would undertake a filibuster against the bill, and it is doubtful whether even the application of the cloture rule itself could secure results.

Legislation for the regulation of the meat-packing industry will likewise be postponed until after the new year, but in this instance there will probably not even be a show of interest before Christmas. As this is being written, the session is now almost a week old, and the Committee on Agriculture has not yet held a meeting, so that not even the plans for the so-called packer hearings have yet been evolved. It seems probable, however, that immediately after the new year Congress will get down to business in earnest, and a real effort at legislation will then make itself manifest.

At the same time, however, the political complications will develop. Everybody knows what the trouble is, but no one of national prominence seems to be willing to state it. Party lines have utterly broken down. There is no real issue between Republicans and Democrats, and simulated issues, based merely on party name, have produced petty partisanship founded only on the use of words.

There is no leadership in either party. House and Senate are equally devoid of anything resembling a cohesive party

plan. In the Senate, for example, it is generally understood that Cummins (Republican) will depend in a very large measure upon the co-operation of Robinson (Democrat) in carrying on the fight for the so-called Cummins railroad bill. Senator Robinson is as ardent a supporter of this plan as Senator Cummins himself. On the other hand, La Follette (Republican) will fight it from the start, and it is predicted that other so-called "progressive" Republicans will be found taking the same point of view, while many Democrats will line up with Robinson in favor of the bill.

In like manner there is no party policy on the packer legislation. Kendrick (Democrat) and Kenyon (Republican) are its sponsors. They will find opposition on both sides of the chamber. Even President Wilson's message has produced no partisan opposition to the program which he suggested, though it has, of course, been followed by much general criticism. For example, there is no party division on the budget system which he approved, nor is there any opposition to his anti-profiteering plank, to the simplification of taxation which he proposed, to his cold-storage program, to the administration plan for aiding the returned soldier. And so one may take up every point of the message, and, while there is division enough in Congress as to the wisdom of each specific suggestion, that division is most emphatically not along party lines.

The problems which are uppermost in the minds of the members of both houses are those which have to do with labor and with big business. In other words, the social and economic issues are the only vital issues before the national legislature, as they are the only issues to which the people at large are giving attention. Unfortunately, neither party has a social and economic platform, and both parties, so far as they are represented in Congress at any rate, are thus far afraid to frame one, because they both seem to dread the effect of it upon the approaching presidential campaign. Unless something happens to destroy this timidity—unless some leader develops who can capture the popular imagination and carry one party or the other along with him in a definite campaign—the most likely result will be procrastination and hesitation until the party conventions are held. Indeed, the danger is not at all remote that both parties will straddle, and that the next presidential campaign will be fought out on false issues, thus only intensifying the unrest which now exists.

This danger will, of course, become a certainty if, for any reason, the treaty with Germany should not be ratified, with or without reservations. Fortunately, however, the impression seems to prevail now that some method of working out a compromise will be found.

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Congressman Sims, of Tennessee, formerly chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, has introduced a bill to extend federal control of the railroads until December 31, 1921, "or until Congress otherwise orders." Mr. Sims will be remembered as having introduced the Plumb plan.



Congressman Bell, of Georgia, has introduced the following bill to consolidate national forest lands:

"That for the purpose of consolidating the government lands within national forests, and where the public interests will be benefited, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept title to non-mineral lands within the exterior boundaries of the national forests, and, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, to exchange non-mineral government lands within any national forest, or timber within such forest, for privately owned lands of equal value and chiefly valuable for national-forest purposes within the exterior boundaries of the same national forest, and, upon the acceptance of title, lands deeded to the United States within national forests shall become parts of the national forests in which they are situated; *Provided*, that not more than two hundred thousand acres shall be exchanged within any calendar year."

The estimates submitted by the Department of Agriculture called for an appropriation for the year 1921 of \$37,528,102, or \$3,628,341 more than was appropriated for the year 1920. An increase of \$32,660 is requested for the general expenses of the Bureau of Animal Industry, including inspection and quarantine work for the eradication of scabies. An appropriation of \$519,040 is requested for investigations and experiments in animal husbandry, including experiments in cooperation with state agricultural and experiment stations. The last appropriation carried \$327,680 for this item. An increase of \$17,900 is asked for the continuation of the investigations of hog cholera.

That the Biological Survey plans to broaden the valuable work which it has been conducting in the destruction of predatory animals is indicated by the fact that the estimate for this item calls for an appropriation of \$575,000, as compared with \$464,440 included in the last appropriation bill.

The Bureau of Markets estimate calls for an advance over the present appropriation of only \$31,930. Of this amount, \$19,600 is assigned to the collection and distribution of market news, but no estimate is made for carrying on the supervision of the stock-yards authorized by the Food Control Act.

## PROBLEMS EXPLAINED AND UNEXPLAINED

LISMAS, MONT., October 27, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Your paper is just what we stockmen need. It brings to our attention, in condensed form, the facts which affect our industry. For several years I have been receiving a packer paper, which is as sure to arrive as my tax notice, and I certainly appreciate reading the other side of the question. In fact, I think the packers are overdoing their propaganda. Undoubtedly, under the supervision of men who are experts in their lines, the packing business is conducted in a most efficient manner, and the public is getting the products at a very low cost. But I cannot see how valid objection can be made to government regulation of an industry whose capacity for expansion seems boundless. And, by the way, why don't the packers go into details and tell us what profits they are making, or have made in the last few years, on five- and six-cent canners? It is always the high-priced steer that we see quoted.

Your reference to the horse-meat business is interesting and timely; likewise your explanation of the problems of foreign exchange, in its relation to exports and imports. Your articles in regard to overcharges on feed by commission firms are also to the point. I myself got some money back through the Bureau of Markets, which I appreciated very much.

Hides, I see, are to be cheaper. Why we should pay from \$2 to \$11 for a pair of shoes, while a cowhide sells locally for from \$5 to \$7, I could never understand.

HEYWOOD DALY.

## PACKER LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PASSED

BROWNLEE, NEB., November 16, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Every stockman who favors the proposed packer legislation should write to his senators and representative in Congress in support of the Kendrick-Kenyon bills. Now we have a chance to curb the vicious practices of the packers, but it will take the best efforts of each individual. The packers are leaving nothing undone to block this legislation, and, while it may seem that they are overplaying their hand, nevertheless it will take a united effort to overcome their propaganda.

The character of some of the testimony given in Washington plainly shows packer influence. I have seen long letters in the South Omaha *Daily Drivers Journal-Stockman* supposed to have been written by stockmen, but I know positively that the alleged authors of these letters could not have composed any sentence in the statements.

It seems as though the stockman is now in this position: He can either curtail production to meet his rising costs, or be insured of an open, fair, and competitive market. In the first case it would injure the consumer—an innocent party; in the second it would assure the nation of a steady flow of meat products which would tend to increase rather than diminish. It is the wise stockman who is looking into the future of the business.

Also, did it ever occur to the readers that possibly some of the testimony against the K-K bills might be influenced by financial considerations? The packer is a buyer of cattle paper, and it is not unnatural to suppose that a ranchman interested in a bank or cattle-loan company might be friendly to the packer. It is therefore well to consider the testimony and the source from which it comes.

Some men with whom I have talked really believe the packer propaganda—that enactment of the pending legislation will mean ruin to the meat industry. How any stockman can believe that we now have an open, fair, competitive market is beyond my comprehension. If a good, fat steer is worth \$12 per cwt. July 15, why could not the same identical steer bring the same price a week or two later? That is the condition, I take it, which we are trying to remedy—to establish a market that is competitive, and to stabilize values.

If five cattlemen controlled 75 per cent of the cattle, it would be an easy matter for them to control beef production, if they cared to do so. The same applies to the packers, since they are in a position to do as they please when buying, and in marketing the finished products.

I sincerely believe in the honest efforts of Senator Kendrick. If the packer will not accept wise federal regulation, then let him credit himself with a goodly share of the responsibility for the social unrest from which we now are suffering. The nation's producers cannot afford another cut in the prices of their products.

HOWARD GUILFOIL.

## PACKER SUPERVISION WANTED BY INDEPENDENT STOCKMEN

PRESCOTT, ARIZ., November 24, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

It is gratifying to know that a man of Charles E. Collins' stamp—especially one who is so prominently identified with the live-stock industry—should have had the backbone to tell the world through *THE PRODUCER*, in his letter of October 29, of the circumstances attending his invitation to be present at the recent round-up of the allied meat packers at Atlantic City.

It must have been trying indeed for Charles W. Hunt, of Iowa, to express himself adversely on the proposed legislation to regulate the activities of the packers, commission

men, and numerous other traders found at the commercial stock-yards, if he is the same Mr. Hunt who during the past six years as a producer and shipper has been cheated out of hundreds of dollars by a commission firm at Chicago by the short-weight and shaving-the-price routes when remitting and rendering the account sales. Solely through the efforts of the Bureau of Markets was Mr. Hunt fully reimbursed for his loss by the commission man who robbed him. This commission man's license was then revoked by the Secretary of Agriculture, he was expelled from the Chicago Live-Stock Exchange, and chased out of business.

An audit of the books of many of the commission firms at other large market centers by the Bureau of Markets during the past twelve months disclosed flagrant abuses in dealings between men who should be on the square. This condition has existed for years. The temporary war-time supervision over the operators at the large market and packing centers had a very wholesome effect on the trade, and forced many to clean house and "tote fair" in the future.

In their present strenuous effort to stem the tide toward permanent federal supervision, the packers and commission men were fully and ably represented at the meeting of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, held at Phoenix December 10, by Professor Weld and ex-Governor Ammons, of Colorado. By a vote of 35 to 18, resolutions were passed withdrawing the association's support from the Kendrick-Kenyon bills. While the action taken at Phoenix is to be regretted at this time, it does not reflect the true sentiment of the 1,400 members of the association, who are strong for federal supervision—not unbridled, but supervision with a wallop in it.

During my twelve-months' connection with the Bureau of Markets, assisting Mr. Brand and Mr. Hall in the regulatory work at the important packing centers, I had a splendid opportunity to feel the pulse of the public on these constructive measures, with the result that the conclusion was forced on me that the producer as well as the consumer wants some agency to ride herd over the production, slaughtering, marketing, distribution, and sale of meat animals. This important economic factor involves the fruits of the energy of seven million producers, 72 per cent of which are handled by the Big Five.

Throughout my travels I have gleaned one outstanding fact in the discussion of this question with many well-informed, clear-thinking men; namely, that where their business interests are not closely interwoven with the packers, they are strong for supervision. Obviously the large packers must soon realize that the country demands federal regulation of their activities, and that they must shape their future policy accordingly.

J. K. CAMPBELL.

### WEATHER, TAXES, AND LIVE STOCK IN WYOMING

KNIGHT, WYO., November 26, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The weather this year is like a moving-picture show, or raising a family—there is something doing all the time. The world may or may not be coming to an end on December 17, but surely our weather has slipped a cog—or a month. Ever since last spring we have been a month ahead of the calendar. We got our April weather in March, that of May in April, and so on. The past October would have made a first-class November. No sooner would we get through with a storm from the west than we would get a return engagement from the east. One climax has swiftly followed its predecessor, until a disgusted neighbor was moved to remark: "I believe the Old Man has gone off, and turned the weather over to Hiram Johnson." Three feet of snow in the mountains on November 10, where

last winter there was less than one foot on January 1! Surely this part of the West can give its "water masters" a holiday the coming season.

\* \* \*

In the last issue of THE PRODUCER a Nevada man claims that through an organization of the stockmen they effectively protested against an 18 per cent perpendicular advance in the rural taxes. It would be of interest to all stockmen to have him explain in your columns the *modus operandi* by which they produced this much-to-be-desired result.

The taxation problem is rapidly becoming acute with all tillers of the soil. The past season state and county taxes on ranch property in Wyoming have risen one-third, and we have the promise of a corresponding increase the coming year. This makes all thinking countrymen wonder where the end will be. To my rustic mind, the whole system of valuation seems to be on a wrong basis. Some poor sucker with a longing for the "simple life" gets into the clutches of a real-estate agent, who sells him a ranch at from two to three times its real value. Then the authorities step in and make this and other sales of a like character the basis of values for taxation purposes. Several instances could be mentioned of land sold the past season, in this community, that will not at any time in the next ten years pay 3 per cent per annum on the investment. These sales have been repeatedly quoted as a justification for a general increase in valuation.

If one wishes to sell, these high valuations help, because taxation values are supposed to be conservative. But if you wish, as in the writer's case, to keep the property, and make a "going concern" out of a ranch, this overvaluation is a very serious matter. Ceaselessly we have it dinned into our ears that a happy, prosperous agricultural life is the very basis of a successful civilization, and in this life taxation is one of the fundamental things. What is a true basis of values? Is it a place where an efficiently managed ranch can clear a fair rate of interest—say 6 per cent—on the investment? Or is it the place where some hot-air merchant, with a 5 per cent commission looming large on the horizon, capitalizes the ardent hopes and roseate dreams of a naturally optimistic nature, and by this means separates some uninformed or easily influenced person from his money?

If we are to make rural life one grand scramble of speculation; if, as an astute friend of mine says, "the only time when you make any money on a ranch is when you sell it," then the speculative value would, of course, be considered the correct one. But if we view the cultivation of the soil as the place where mankind comes into direct contact with Mother Nature, it behooves us to see to it that this fundamental proposition is put on a healthy basis, that we may not only be able to sell it profitably, but, what is more important, keep it in our possession, and yet make a reasonable profit. This, it seems fair to maintain, cannot be done unless the predatory tax-gatherer somewhat curbs his rapacity.

I should like to go deeper into this subject, but do not wish to take too much of your space.

\* \* \*

With the exception of a scattering shipment here and there, the fall run of cattle to market is over. A very dry season made them average a hundred pounds lighter than they should have done; but, as most of them were held until the latter part of the season, when the feeder market had recuperated from the September low spot, they brought fair prices. A few men who were located on streams that did not head far enough back in the in-the-snow peaks have taken their cattle out of the state to winter, while others are hauling corn to eke out their scanty hay-stacks. A neighbor tells me that \$3-a-hundred corn is cheaper than \$15-a-ton hay for half a



range cow's ration. I do not know, and pass it on for what it is worth.

The state is undoubtedly in the poorest condition for a hard winter that it has been for many years, and it takes the kind of faith that is said to be able to move mountains to listen to the east wind howling, and yet feel that the wind will be "tempered to the shorn lamb."

CHARLES A. MYERS.

## LIVE-STOCK AND FEED CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

FORT WORTH, TEX., November 11, 1919.

### TO THE PRODUCER:

Texas cattlemen are ready for the winter, and are worrying very little about the high price of cottonseed cake and other feeds. The range is better than it has been for many years, and a bumper feed crop is being harvested. It is estimated that the average cattleman will require only from 20 to 30 per cent of the normal supply of cottonseed cake or meal.

Cattle in most sections of the state are fat, and all will go into the winter in fine condition. A serious car shortage has delayed shipments to markets. With an abundance of feed, and prices at the market centers very unsatisfactory, most cattlemen will sell only the culls and carry the others through until spring, in the hope of receiving better prices. Several thousand cattle which were shipped to Texas and New Mexico from the drought-stricken sections of Wyoming and other states have gained flesh rapidly since their arrival in the Lone Star State, and will go through the winter in splendid condition.

During the drought which visited sections of Texas in 1917-18 it was predicted by many that it would be three or four years, perhaps longer, before range conditions would become normal; but today the range is better than it has been for many years. In addition to the native grasses and weeds, many sections report new varieties. In the South Plains section a remarkable growth of wild rye—a valuable variety of grass which stays green throughout the winter and is relished by cattle—is reported. The upper Panhandle section had a killing frost November 1, and a light snow a few days later; but the central and southern sections of the state have not had frost, and the weather has been unusually mild.

Feed crops were never better. Scarcity of labor, coupled with heavy rains, delayed wheat harvesting. Later continued rains ruined millions of bushels stacked by the railroad tracks waiting for cars. The average weight per bushel of wheat is 56 pounds.

The Texas corn crop is estimated by representatives of the Department of Agriculture at 222,456,000 bushels, with an average yield of 31 bushels, placing Texas third in corn production for 1919. Oats and barley suffered from the rain. Grain sorghums produced a wonderful crop, but the heavy rains of the past two months caused much sorghum, both in the field and in the shock, to sprout, resulting in considerable loss. In many places the second crop will be as good as the first. With an average of 33 bushels of grain and 3 tons of forage per acre, the total yield is estimated at 59,334,000 bushels of grain and 5,349,000 tons of forage from the grain sorghums.

Labor shortage, coupled with the continued rains, also caused tremendous damage to the cotton crop. Farmers have paid as high as from \$2 to \$3 per hundred for cotton-picking, but even at these prices they are finding it difficult to get the crop gathered. Farmers' Union officials are advising their members to hold the better grade of cotton for 50 cents a pound.

The only cattlemen who are frowning are those who have recently had cattle on the market, or have not been able to complete their financial arrangements. The wheat and corn crops will bring many millions to Texas banks, which will materially help the financial situation. Oil-leasing, which has

proved a "life-saver" for many land-owners, continues in many sections of the state. While the War Finance Corporation has requested stockmen to pay loans made last year, totaling approximately \$5,500,000, which mature November 15, it is understood that the corporation will not force the immediate payment of any loan where the borrower is capable of conserving the stock securing his loan, the security is ample, and he is unable to secure funds through the usual channels without sacrificing his breeding stock. Many of these loans have been paid, substantial payments have been made by the others, and the banks are showing a willingness to help these borrowers.

A. C. WILLIAMS.

## LOYAL CO-OPERATION THE ONE ESSENTIAL

EUREKA, KAN., November 14, 1919.

### TO THE PRODUCER:

During the past year I have felt that our live-stock associations are too large an extent bodies of individualists, operating singly and along their own lines, from their own point of view, and without considering the general cause. We have the hogmen and sheepmen and cattlemen of all states to consider. The range producer fails to look at things from the same viewpoint as the Missouri full feeder, or the Kansas half feeder and grass man, or the Iowa hogman. However, I feel there is enough common ground on which we can all meet and work together, provided each can curb his private views and wishes sufficiently to co-ordinate with the whole.

I have attended several conferences in Kansas City and Chicago, and discovered that, instead of being gatherings for a common purpose and with mutual interests—instead of being get-together and work-together conferences—these meetings resulted in much discord and wrangling among the very men and interests that should stand united. Each participant has had a different idea of procedure and a different thought for his association, and consequently each has gone off on a tangent. This sort of thing greatly reduces our power, and so far has reacted largely in favor of the packers.

The only way in which we can accomplish anything of value to the live-stock industry is by solemnly vowing to stand by the majority and complete the job—to stand solidly together regardless of the opinion of the minority. The minority should enact and carry out the plans of the majority, whether right or wrong. If wrong, the plan will soon fall from its own fallacy.

I therefore hope we may mutually pledge honor, perseverance, co-operation, and a united front. Nominally we have ten thousand members in the Kansas Live Stock Association. These thousands, added to the producers from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and the great West, Southwest, and South, would be a wonderful force if they could be combined and remain loyal to their leaders and spokesmen, without backbiting, as do the labor unions within the American Federation of Labor. We have the greatest force in the land, and should use it instead of losing it.

I will arrange to go to Washington when the next hearings on the meat-packing legislation are held. I presume these hearings will take place some time in 1920, and that a new bill will then be written—as it should be; a bill immediate in effect; one that is more vigorous than either the Kenyon or the Kendrick bill. It occurs to me that, if representatives from the various live-stock associations could meet with representatives of all other industries affected, at least a framework for an effective bill could be constructed—one which we could submit to the Agricultural Committee at Washington, and on which the packers might then be heard.

I trust you will pardon a letter of such length. I feel, however, that the condition of our business justifies much

thought, much writing, and much talking from our ranks. Otherwise it will be only a matter of time when the packers will own, not only the groceries and the stock-yards and the cars and the banks, but our very persons as well.

Through various districts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska many ranches and much real estate are now reported to have been offered to the packers' loan companies and banks, or are being taken as collateral security by these institutions, as a consequence of the tremendous losses suffered by many of the cattle-owners.

JOHN A. EDWARDS.

## HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE SHOULD BE A TRAINED MAN

DENVER, COLO., November 28, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I have been reading THE PRODUCER with much pleasure. In its pages one finds timely topics discussed ably and without bias.

The thought has occurred to me that, with our growing importance as a world-power, the conduct of our international affairs ought to be in the hands of a trained man—one possessing ripe experience and all other necessary qualifications for this particular work. Why not turn this job over to our ex-presidents? This would solve the puzzle as to what to do with them; it would remove the temptation of running for second and third terms; it would elevate our diplomatic service above the plane of party politics, and would lend dignity and added influence to our representatives abroad, who would be appointed on merit alone. The present system, as every thoughtful man will agree, is open to very serious objections.

W. H. McELWAIN.

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA RANGE IN FINE CONDITION

ORO BLANCO, ARIZ., November 19, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Cattle shipments from southern Arizona have been exceedingly heavy this fall, both to Texas and California points. Very few Mexican cattle have been imported so far, but the demand is good for Mexican stuff as soon as it can be brought out. This section is well cleaned up of steers, most owners selling in May, and also in November. Ranges are in fine condition, and more cattle could be taken care of. All stock shipped has been in good shape, and everybody is satisfied.

W. M. MARTENY.

## PACKERS SHOULD ESTABLISH RETAIL SHOPS

CONGRESS JUNCTION, ARIZ., November 5, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

It is my firm conviction that the packers should be placed under federal control. But the chief trouble now is with the middleman and the retailer. It would be a great improvement over present conditions if the packers would establish retail shops throughout the country—these shops to be under federal control.

L. B. CANNON.

"Britain," says a report, "has asked the United States to send an army of two hundred thousand men to Armenia to protect the Christian inhabitants." While unable to comply with the request, President Wilson, we learn, has intimated that any Armenians who succeed in escaping will receive a sympathetic hearing from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.—*London Punch*.

## HORSE MEAT IS A FACT

[Breeder's Gazette]

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID during the past few years regarding the utilization of horse meat for human food. The chief arguments advanced in its favor are that horse meat is nutritious and for many years has been used in Europe; that thousands of light horses for which there is no appreciable market are consuming grass on the range that might better feed cattle and sheep; that beef, mutton, and pork are scarce and high in price; and that additional hides are needed to supply leather. Men who oppose these views contend that horse meat is unsightly, unpalatable, will not keep well, and is not actually needed in America, and that the "noble horse," for esthetic and sentimental reasons, should not be put to such an undignified use.

For the information of those who have not examined horse meat it may be stated that it is conspicuously dark-red, or even brown, in color. When exposed to the air it shows a bluish luster, and even turns blackish-red or black. Its fibers are fine, its consistency is firm, and its coverings of fascia are prominent. There is no intermixing of fat in the muscles. The odor is peculiarly sweet, and to some people almost repulsive. Its sweetness is due to the presence of glycogen, which turns to grape sugar. The fat is soft, oily, and light-gold to dark-yellow in color; but in well-nourished horses it is whiter and firmer. Bone marrow is wax-yellow, greasy, and soft, but becomes firmer in the air.

Horse meat is slowly but surely entering our markets and going abroad. Horses are being slaughtered in a Milwaukee plant, and a market for its sale is doing business in that city. There are similar slaughter-houses and markets in other parts of the country. Other new centers for this industry are springing up. It is for the latter reasons that the United States Department of Agriculture has been authorized by Congress to inspect horse meat and horse products. An amendment to the regulations governing meat inspection was passed by Congress on July 24, providing \$100,000 to carry on the work during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.

## HOME TANNING OF SKINS

WHEN IT IS DESIRED to preserve the skins of wild animals which have been shot or trapped, these may be tanned either with the hair on or off, as desired. Hair can be removed from hides by soaking them in tepid water made alkaline by lye or lime. The following recipe for a tanning liquor is furnished by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture: To each gallon of water add one quart of salt and one-half ounce of sulphuric acid. This mixture should not be kept in a metal container. Thin skins are tanned by this liquor in one day; heavy skins must remain in it longer. They may remain in it indefinitely without harm.

When removed from this liquor, the skins are washed several times in soapy water, wrung as dry as possible, and rubbed on the flesh side with a cake of hard soap. They are then folded in the middle, hung lengthwise over a line, hair side out, and left to dry. When both surfaces are barely dry, and the interior is still moist, they are laid over a smooth, rounded board and scraped on the flesh side with the edge of a worn flat file, or a similar blunt-edged tool. In this way an inner layer is removed and the skins become nearly white in color. They are then stretched, rubbed, and twisted until quite dry. If parts of a skin are still hard and stiff, the soaping, drying, and stretching process is repeated until the entire skin is soft. Fresh butter, or other animal fat, worked into skins while they are warm, and then worked out again in dry hardwood sawdust, or extracted by a hasty bath in gasoline, increases their softness.



# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## GETTING READY FOR THE CENSUS

**I**N AN ADVISORY CAPACITY the Department of Agriculture is assisting the Bureau of the Census in preparations for the 1920 census. Because the farmer usually is busy in the early spring, and also because the farm herds and flocks are not so replete at this period as at other seasons, the date of the census, as previously noted in these pages, has been changed from April 1 to January 1. Hence, on January 1, 1920, in all sections of the country enumerators will begin the work of visiting the 7,000,000 farms and ranches, peopled by 35,000,000 rural citizens—practically one-third of the total population of the United States.

To facilitate the gathering of data, farmers are urged to acquaint themselves in advance with the census requirements. Considerable figuring is necessary to answer fully the questions which will be put by the enumerator. Many of these questions cover subject-matter not included heretofore. As the statistics obtained from the agricultural census will largely determine the future land policy of the federal government, it is every farmer's duty to make individual answers as accurate as possible. Such information involves some little previous study on his part.

The agricultural census statistics are divided into facts covering farm tenure; farm acreage; farm incumbrances; farm values; farm expenses; uses of the land in 1919; drainage crops produced in 1919; live stock maintained, including an enumeration of the various classes and grades on each farm; farming facilities, such as tractors, automobiles, trucks, and other conveniences; co-operative marketing; fruits and nuts, and timber resources.

Information is to be secured which will enable the Department of Agriculture to figure up the length of the "agricultural ladder"—how long it takes the young farmer to learn the rudiments of his trade before he is qualified to graduate from the position of hired man to that of cash or share tenant, and later on to change from tenant into owner. Furthermore, the name and address of the owner of each piece of land in the United States will be obtained.

## FATTENING STEERS ON SUMMER PASTURE IN SOUTH

**R**ECOGNIZING that "the producer of beef in the South depends largely on pasture for growing and finishing cattle for market," and that the proportion of tillable land is smaller in the South than in the Corn Belt states, a series of experiments in fattening steers on grass have been conducted jointly by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Experiment Stations of Alabama and Mississippi. In Bulletin No. 777 of the Department of Agriculture are set forth the results of four summers' feeding experiments—two in Alabama (1912 and 1913) and two in Mississippi (1915 and 1916). From the conclusions arrived at we quote:

"1. Feeding cottonseed cake to steers as a supplement to summer pasture in the South increases materially the rate of gains made by steers, causing them to finish more quickly and to take on a higher degree of finish.

"2. Because of their better-finished condition, cake-fed steers bring higher prices on the markets than grass cattle. The margin or 'spread' between buying and selling prices of steers fattened on pasture is nearly always increased by supplementing the pasture with cottonseed cake, or cake and corn.

"3. Steers of inferior quality may return more profit by grazing alone than by grazing with the addition of supplementary feeds, especially when they are on good pastures that are cheap.

"4. The cost of gains of steers on pasture is greatly increased by feeding cottonseed cake, but the better market price received for cake-fed cattle usually pays for the added cost of feeding the cake and returns a greater average profit than is realized on grass-fed cattle.

"5. The substitution of corn chop for one-half the quantity of cottonseed cake for steers on pasture produces gains and finish comparable to those made by cake alone; but, unless corn is available at a lower cost than the cake, its use for this purpose is not recommended.

"6. A half-and-half mixture of cottonseed cake and corn-and-cob meal for steers on grass is less efficient for producing gains than cottonseed cake alone, or corn and cake. When corn is cheap, its use shelled or as corn chop with cottonseed cake is preferable to corn-and-cob meal.

"7. Pasture lands grazed by steers that are fed cottonseed meal or cake receive the benefit of large quantities of fertilizing elements through the manure of the cattle. The landowner should consider this feature when fattening cattle on pasture.

"8. One of the distinct advantages in supplementing pastures with concentrates is the fact that steers so handled are finished more quickly and can be marketed earlier than steers getting grass alone. Thus the cattle can be sold before the rush of grass-fed cattle gluts the market and depresses prices. Moreover, when cattle are marketed early, the pastures have time to recuperate and furnish good grazing for other stock during the fall.

"9. Scrub steers do not respond readily to the use of good feeds, and even when well finished do not command satisfactory prices in competition with well-bred cattle similarly finished. On the other hand, good grade or pure-bred beef cattle make better use of their feeds, finish more rapidly, and always bring more on the market than scrub cattle of the same weight. The better the quality of the steers, the safer it is to feed them high-priced feeds.

"10. For a farmer who has roughages, such as silage, hay, straw, stover, cottonseed hulls, or stalk feeds, and who contemplates fattening steers on summer pasture, it is usually better to purchase the steers in the fall, and winter them on the roughages and a little cottonseed meal, than it is to purchase them in the spring for fattening during the grazing season."

## DANGER OF FEEDING CARCASSES OF DISEASED ANIMALS

**W**ARNING against the feeding of carcasses of diseased cattle to hogs is sounded by the Department of Agriculture. A conference of state and federal officials, held early in October to deal with matters of tuberculosis eradication,

brought to light numerous instances where hogs contracted tuberculosis after feeding on carcasses of tuberculous cattle. In one case nearly an entire drove of hogs showed lesions of tuberculosis for which at first the owner could not account. Later he admitted to the veterinarian investigating the case that several months before he had fed to the hogs the carcass of a cow that "never did very well." The Bureau of Animal Industry urges live-stock owners to have a careful autopsy made on animals dying on the farm or killed because of sickness, in order that the definite cause of trouble may be learned. Carcasses that show lesions of infectious diseases should not be fed. Instead, such carcasses should be cared for so that no part can be eaten by hogs. Thorough destruction of the carcass by burning, or by deep burial under a liberal application of quicklime, is the proper procedure in such cases. Attention is called also to the danger of feeding offal from slaughtered animals to swine, as such a practice is another source of infection.

### TUBERCULOSIS-ERADICATION WORK IN OCTOBER

A SUMMARY of the tuberculosis-eradication work performed by the Bureau of Animal Industry, in co-operation with the various states, during the month of October, 1919, shows that a total of 57,270 cattle, belonging to 3,251 herds, were tested. Of these, 2,821, or 4.92 per cent, reacted. The total number of tuberculosis-free accredited herds is now 1,324. Virginia leads with 258 (not, as erroneously reported in the September statistics, 196); Minnesota comes next with 236.

### WHEAT EMBARGO LIFTED

BEGINNING DECEMBER 15, the embargo on wheat and flour will be lifted, as announced by the United States Grain Corporation. The removal applies to both exports and imports. Owing to the rate of exchange, it is, however, not expected that much grain or flour will be exported to Europe for the present, but it is considered probable that large amounts of Canadian spring wheat and wheat flour will be imported into this country as a result of the order.

### GOVERNMENT TO SELL FROZEN MEAT

THE WAR DEPARTMENT announces that it is offering for sale its entire surplus of frozen beef, consisting of approximately 34,215,000 pounds. This beef will be sold at 20 per cent less than Chicago quotations on dressed beef, medium steers, delivered f. o. b. to any point within the territorial limits of the United States which has railroad connections. Since the meat must be transported in refrigerator cars, no order for less than a minimum carload lot of 30,000 pounds will be considered. Municipalities, county or state institutions, hotels or restaurants, and retailers who purchase for immediate domestic distribution, may purchase up to January 15. After that time any supply left over will be disposed of through any available means.

It is reported that Wilson & Co. have sold all their outside canning interests to Austin, Nichols & Co., large wholesale grocers at New York City. This action may mean that the big packers have decided to abandon some of their side lines and confine their operations strictly to the meat business.

## THE MARKETS

### LIVE-STOCK MARKET AT CLOSE OF NOVEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1919.

#### Cattle Market Remains Erratic

CURRENT CATTLE-TRADE EVILS appear to be incurable. November developed much the same variety of trade as the rest of the year. Weekly mutations of \$1 to \$2 per cwt. have been the rule; stability, even for a few days in succession, the exception. Alternate scrambles for cattle regardless of cost, and periods when buyers could not be induced to look into a pen, have followed in quick succession. As a gamble the market is not susceptible of improvement; incentive to make beef does not exist.

Chicago has been getting 90,000 to 100,000 cattle weekly; one week in November a new record was made at 110,000, and about 400,000 head have reported around the market circle. These figures look beefy, whereas the reverse was the case; more emaciated, counterfeited, cold-blooded, and merely warmed-up steers showing up than ever before in market history. The range country sent a delegation of many-cornered hat-racks, delayed by inability to get cars; Omaha, St. Paul, Sioux City, and Chicago being constantly glutted by these varieties. There was canning material and near-beef in abundance, good beef was scarce, while the No. 1 article, usually abundant around the holiday period, became acutely scarce; otherwise it would have been impossible to put a few loads over the scales at \$19.50 to \$20.25. At Missouri River markets fat cattle disappeared, sales above \$19 at Chicago being easily enumerated. A high summer corn market, coupled with a discouraging fat-cattle trade, had the logical effect of forcing beef-makers to liquidate.

Despite wide fluctuations from week to week, the mean level of prices has shown little net change. On the big runs killers have deducted \$1 to \$2 per cwt.—sometimes more; replacing it when the country refused to load. Feeders, by holding out on breaks and loading on bulges, are merely playing into killers' hands. It must be admitted that the primary movement has been controlled to a large extent by the Railroad Administration, and regulated to some extent by the same agency.

Lack of confidence among beef-makers is still indicated by a disposition to unload corn-fed cattle that are merely in feeder condition, which accounts for the fact that thousands of steers have sold at \$12 to \$14, while anything convertible into No. 1 beef is eligible to \$19 to \$20. Unloading steers that have not eaten sufficient corn to do them much good may be mistaken policy, but after his recent experience neither the feeder nor his financial backer can be blamed. Measured by pre-war levels, cattle are still selling high, and, after what has happened in the hog market, cattle-handlers realize that their property may be subjected to further depreciation. A threatening disturbed industrial situation has not improved beef-makers' psychology, nor has the constant clamor for reduced retail cost imparted faith in the future. Nine feeders out of ten have been, and are, dubious of the intrinsic value of their bovine property, begrudging every pound of feed consumed, and manifesting anxiety to get their money back into the bank intact. Experience since the break last April may



not have destroyed confidence in a somewhat fascinating game, but everybody playing it is wary.

Western cattle are still straggling marketward. Kansas City is getting a run of Colorados, the Sandhill region in western Nebraska is keeping Omaha supplied, and both St. Paul and Chicago are being replenished by Montana and western Canada. In fact, the movement from Alberta has exceeded expectation by 50 per cent. Chicago's big run, however, has been from Iowa and Illinois—cattle that came out of the West earlier in the season filled up on grass, and have had forty to sixty days on corn. They make beef of a certain kind; and, as all is grist that goes to the packers' mill, they are not making serious complaint.

Range-cattle feeders are uncorking red ink to figure the season's balances. Such vicissitude as they have encountered was due largely to climatic influence, as there is good reason to assume that they would have found a good market had their cattle been fat. As it was, few sold above \$12; the great bulk at \$9 to \$11.50. Corn-Belt feeders have taken out thousands of young western cattle at \$8.50 to \$10, territory east of Chicago embracing this opportunity to restock. Iowa has been a heavy buyer, followed by Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Not all the range cattle dislodged by drought have gone to the shambles; in fact, salvage has been on an enormous scale, Nebraska and Texas furnishing an asylum for a vast bovine army. Few of the rangers transferred to the cut-over region of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota have given a good account of themselves, however; range men having learned in the school of bitter experience that the brush country is no place for cattle raised on the plains. Consequently the mistake will never be repeated.

Taking into consideration the erratic nature of the fat-cattle market, high cost of feed, a menacing industrial situation, tight money, and other adverse influences, the stocker market has been a phenomenal affair. Texas and other sections of the Southwest have absorbed a large number. Nebraska has bought heavily at Omaha, Iowa has spent money for cattle, both at Kansas City and Omaha, prodigally, and the Chicago stock-cattle output has, broken previous records, running from 25,000 to 30,000 weekly. While fleshers have taken a chance on finishing steers costing \$12 to \$14 per cwt. on a quick turn, the bulk of the country trade has been done under \$11, popular prices ranging from \$8.50 to \$10.50 per cwt. It will be a case of "hurry back" with most of these cattle, the November run carrying thousands that had merely had enough corn to get accustomed to its flavor. Not to exceed 50 per cent of the stock cattle taken out from July to November will be held for grazing next summer.

That beef is going into distributive channels promptly is indicated by the frantic manner in which killers grab cattle on every short run. Less frozen beef was accumulated during the western beef round-up than at any time during the past twenty-five years; consequently the trade will be on a hand-to-mouth basis all through the winter. The distributive problem has been complicated by demands formulated by shopmen who, in addition to resorting to strikes, have forced concessions by opening competitive shops. They accused employers of swindling and profiteering, washing considerable dirty trade linen in public, with the result that market-owners, apprehensive of arousing indignation, capitulated by giving an increase of 25 per cent in wages; which, of course, will be saddled on the ultimate consumer, further restricting beef consumption.

#### Hog Pendulum Swings Back and Forth

Hog values still veer as much as \$1 per cwt. in a single session. From a \$12.50 basis, prices advanced to \$15.25, then slumped, and early in December were flirting with the \$12

objective. Packers have been free sellers of hedges on the board of trade on every rise, indicating that they expect lower prices. The November primary movement was restricted by country co-operative shipping concerns, which adopted the policy of holding hogs back to nurse the market, which was mainly responsible for the \$3 advance in November. In La Salle Street provision circles an opinion exists that packers will put up droves around \$12 during December and January, forcing prices higher toward spring to pocket inventory profits. While growers are protesting volubly against price slumps, not a single voice has been raised in advocacy of government price control, which was so popular a year ago.

Foreign exchange is exerting a potent influence on the hog market. With the British pound slopping around \$4, German marks not worth the paper on which they are so voluminously printed, and Italian lire possessing about the same intrinsic value as currency of the Southern Confederacy, it must be evident that hungry Europe will be able to buy little American pork or lard, unless sanity is restored in exchange matters. That the European larder is bare is not disputed, but packers must pay good American dollars for hogs, likewise for labor, and cannot afford to accept payment in currency so seriously depreciated as to have little buying power. Germany is rapidly exhausting its European credit, its precious metals have been disposed of, and, unless the Peace Treaty is signed, American bankers will not be disposed to come to its rescue. All this must be given consideration in speculating on the course of the hog market during the ensuing six months.

#### Sheep Prices Expected to Advance

To hear packers tell it, they have lost so much money on sheep and lambs this season that their solvency has been preserved only by volume. To an observer it must be evident that the market is in leash, tugging at its bonds, and that, when the residue of the crop of native lambs has been cleaned up, prices will advance. Iowa, which absorbed about 700,000 western lambs during the range season, has already marketed 50 per cent of its purchase, and will have disposed of the residue by the end of January, leaving the coast clear for Colorado feeders; who, from present indications, will handle about 60 per cent of the normal number. For weeks past \$14 to \$14.50 has bought the bulk of lambs at western markets, an occasional \$15 top being registered. Feeders have been greedy purchasers at \$12 to \$13.50; yearlings have sold largely at \$10.50 to \$11.50, wethers at \$9.50 to \$10.25, and ewes at \$7.50 to \$8.25. Western orders for stock sheep and breeding ewes have not been filled. A Texas buyer spent a week at Chicago in an effort to pick up a trainload of stock ewes without success. About 100 loads of ewes have been sent to Montana, which filled orders for around 50,000 head during November.

The wool pools have cleaned up handsomely, several million pounds stored at Chicago selling at an average of 58 cents per pound during November, thus demonstrating the merit of the pooling system, for the season at least. Sold to country dealers on the old system, it is doubtful if an average of 40 cents per pound would have been realized. Demand for fine wools is strong; coarse grades are dull; but it is evident that growers are in a strong technical position, so far as the 1920 clip is concerned; no necessity for parting with it at less than current prices being discernible at this moment.

Columbus would never have discovered America if the strikers aboard his ships had been better organized.—*National Tribune*.

In an article on the railway strike here, the *Temps* says that the problem really comes to this: "Should a worker be paid according to the good which he does, or the evil which he might be capable of doing?"—*London Times*.

## RECEIPTS AT KANSAS CITY ABOVE NORMAL

BY SAMUEL SOSLAND

KANSAS CITY, Mo., December 1, 1919.

RANGE INTERESTS of the Southwest are sending more liberal supplies of cattle to Kansas City than usual at this season. Stocker and feeder buyers are therefore finding generous offerings here, the movement being second only to that of a year ago in volume. That activity marks the stocker and feeder trade, and that it is on a basis satisfactory to producers, is indicated by the fact that a larger percentage of the receipts than a year ago is moving out for wintering or feeding purposes. The fleshier cattle which are quoted between \$12 and \$13 frequently go to feeder buyers on bids as much as \$1 above the best offers from packers. In the fat-cattle market the outstanding feature is the lack of choice grades, but the trade in finished offerings does not display a healthy tone.

New Mexico is still a prominent shipper. For weeks the stockmen of this state and other distant points of the Southwest were unable to obtain cars, and now that the car situation has improved they are making sales. Delay in shipping out of the Southwest is expected to give Kansas City comparatively large supplies of range cattle throughout December. The November runs were large, which the trade anticipated.

While Kansas and Oklahoma have made increased purchases, these states are still taking fewer cattle than a year ago. Grazers operating in Kansas lost fully \$10,000,000 on cattle the past season, and there is now little enthusiasm over buying in that state as a result. This is felt in direct trading on ranges as well as locally.

Nervousness over prices of cattle is reflected in part by the fact that the heavier steers suitable for a quick finish held practically steady the past month, while stockers receded as much as \$1. Stock calves have sold slowly. At the American Royal, Hereford yearlings shown by the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association sold up to \$15.25 at auction, but the open market top was \$11.75. Common stockers are quoted now around \$6, and choice grades around \$11—prices \$2 to \$3 lower than a year ago. The best price on fed steers the past month was \$17.50.

Hog receipts show a sharp decrease, and prices here continue higher than at Chicago or Omaha, due to reduced supplies in the Southwest. Premiums are expected to continue here. Texas packers are buying hogs in Kansas City, and some orders have come from Old Mexico, live porkers going to Chihuahua City.

Demand from Colorado feeders has proved a restricting influence on the movement of sheep to Kansas City. Feeding in this territory is also light, and it is believed that premiums will prevail here to draw supplies from the districts of other markets.

Labor strikes, particularly the walk-out of coal-miners, have had an unfavorable effect on the trade in meat animals, and are still a damper on the market.

## SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL EXPORTS

DURING THE FIVE MONTHS from January 1 to May 31, 1919, the Union of South Africa exported 92,448,296 pounds of wool, as compared with 49,959,856 pounds during the same period of 1918, according to the *Monthly Trade Report* of the National Bank of South Africa, dated July 31, 1919. About 10 per cent of the exports in 1919 were shipped to the United States. This report states that the stocks of combing wools in South Africa are practically exhausted, and that there is a keen demand for them at extreme prices.

## LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

SUBJOINED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-nine markets for the month of October, 1919, compared with October, 1918, and for the first ten months of 1919, compared with the same period last year:

### RECEIPTS

	October		First Ten Months	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	3,018,142	2,877,081	19,702,699	20,579,179
Hogs.....	3,165,715	3,447,819	36,181,714	35,125,813
Sheep.....	3,754,788	3,327,900	21,858,613	18,258,670

### SHIPMENTS\*

	October		First Ten Months	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	1,552,433	1,336,857	8,374,926	8,256,731
Hogs.....	1,117,964	919,050	11,407,856	11,659,260
Sheep.....	2,287,755	2,146,552	11,556,670	9,964,099

\*Includes stockers and feeders.

### LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	October		First Ten Months	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	1,444,336	1,545,677	11,166,391	12,157,981
Hogs.....	2,063,658	2,483,525	24,684,839	23,313,252
Sheep.....	1,451,683	1,205,480	10,226,942	8,228,339

### STOCKERS AND FEEDERS

	October		First Ten Months	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	839,398	704,000	4,093,603	4,023,402
Hogs.....	111,156	117,677	741,694	806,577
Sheep.....	1,385,629	1,245,633	5,356,526	4,084,699

## STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of holdings of frozen and cured meats on November 1, 1919, compared with October 1, 1919, and November 1, 1918, as announced by the Bureau of Markets:

Commodity	Nov. 1, 1919 (Pounds)	Oct. 1, 1919 (Pounds)	Nov. 1, 1918 (Pounds)
Frozen beef.....	184,120,509	166,243,870	224,320,531
Cured beef.....	37,504,421	37,327,531	29,376,151
Lamb and mutton...	7,893,989	8,318,390	8,644,785
Frozen pork.....	47,271,467	61,418,948	38,053,383
Dry salt pork.....	279,534,942	332,786,130	247,305,996
Pickled pork.....	240,137,320	297,711,900	233,148,099
Lard.....	65,948,366	76,456,389	76,127,664
Miscellaneous.....	82,135,633	80,454,409	102,537,568



# LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS, DECEMBER 1, 1919

[Bureau of Markets]

HOGS			
	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Top .....	\$14.60	\$14.80	\$14.75
Bulk of Sales.....	14.10-14.50	14.25-14.65	14.00-14.50
Heavy Wt., Med. to Ch....	14.10-14.55	14.30-14.65	14.10-14.50
Medium Wt., Med. to Ch....	14.15-14.60	14.50-14.80	14.25-14.75
Light Wt., Com. to Ch....	14.10-14.50	14.35-14.50	14.10-14.50
Light Lits, Com. to Ch....	13.50-14.25	14.00-14.30	.....
Packing Sows, Smooth.....	13.50-14.00	13.50-13.75	13.75-14.10
Packing Sows, Rough.....	12.75-13.50	13.00-13.50	13.40-13.75
Pigs, Med. to Ch....	13.00-13.75	.....	.....
Stock Pigs, Com. to Ch....	.....	10.00-12.50	12.00-13.50

## CATTLE

BEEF STEERS:			
Med. and Heavy Wt. (1,100 lbs. up)—			
Choice and Prime.....	\$18.75-21.00	\$16.75-18.75	\$16.25-18.25
Good .....	14.25-18.65	13.90-16.85	13.50-16.00
Medium .....	11.25-14.25	11.25-14.00	11.00-13.50
Common .....	9.00-11.25	9.25-11.25	9.00-11.00
Light Weight (1,100 lbs. down)—			
Choice and Prime.....	18.50-20.75	16.40-18.60	15.75-18.50
Medium and Good.....	11.00-18.50	10.75-16.50	11.25-15.50
Common .....	7.75-11.00	8.50-10.75	8.50-11.25

## BUTCHER CATTLE:

Helpers, Common to Choice	6.65-15.00	6.75-13.75	6.75-13.00
Cows, Common to Choice..	5.50-13.50	6.65-11.75	6.50-12.00
Bulls, Bologna and Beef..	6.75-11.50	6.00- 9.25	5.50- 9.75

## CANNERS AND CUTTERS:

Cows and Helpers.....	5.50- 6.50	5.40- 6.60	5.00- 6.50
Canner Steers .....	5.75- 7.75	5.75- 8.00	.....

## VEAL CALVES:

Lt. & Hd. Wt., Med. to Ch.	16.25-17.25	13.00-15.50	13.00-14.50
Heavy Weight, Com. to Ch.	7.50-12.50	6.50-10.75	7.00-11.50

## FEEDER STEERS:

Heavy Weight (1,000 lbs. up)—			
Common to Choice.....	9.00-13.00	9.00-13.15	8.50-13.00
Medium Weight (800-1,000 lbs.)—			
Common to Choice.....	7.75-12.75	8.35-12.50	7.25-12.25
Light Weight (800 lbs. down)—			
Common to Choice.....	7.00-11.25	8.00-11.50	7.00-11.25

## STOCKER STEERS:

Common to Choice.....	6.00-11.00	6.00-10.50	6.75-11.00
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## STOCKER COWS AND HEIFERS:

Common to Choice.....	6.00- 7.75	5.50- 8.50	5.75- 8.25
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## STOCKER CALVES:

Good and Choice.....	10.00-11.25	8.00-10.50	9.00-10.75
Common and Medium.....	7.75- 9.75	6.25- 7.75	6.50- 9.00

## WESTERN RANGE CATTLE:

Beef Steers—			
Good and Choice.....	11.00-15.25	.....	11.75-15.00
Common and Medium...	7.50-11.00	.....	7.00-11.75
Cows and Heifers—			
Medium, Good and Choice	7.50-12.75	.....	6.50-11.00

## SHEEP

LAMBS:			
84 lbs. down, Med. to Prime	\$13.75-15.75	\$13.75-15.50	\$13.75-15.10
Culls and Common.....	9.50-13.50	9.00-13.00	9.50-13.50

## YEARLING WETHERS:

Medium to Prime.....	10.75-13.00	10.50-12.25	10.50-11.75
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## WETHERS:

Medium to Prime.....	9.75-11.00	9.50-10.75	9.25-10.50
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## EWES:

Medium to Prime.....	7.50- 9.00	6.25- 8.75	7.50- 8.60
Culls and Common.....	3.75- 7.25	3.00- 6.00	3.50- 7.50

## BREEDING EWES:

Full Mouths to Yearlings..	6.75-11.25	7.50-11.50	7.50-13.50
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FEEDER LAMBS.....	11.50-14.00	10.50-12.25	10.00-13.50
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# HIDE HOLDINGS INCREASING

**T**OTAL HOLDINGS of hides and skins for the month of October were 40,678,536, according to reports received by the Bureau of Markets from packers, dealers, importers, and tanners. This is a net increase of 3,308,558 over September. Holdings of goat- and kidskins showed the largest total increases, while cattle hides and calfskins showed decreases.

# OPENING AND CLOSING WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED FRESH MEATS

For Week Ending December 5, 1919

[Bureau of Markets]

## BOSTON

BEEF		LAMB AND MUTTON	
STEERS:		LAMBS:	
Good .....	\$21.00-23.00	Choice .....	\$23.00-24.00
Medium .....	18.00-20.00	Good .....	22.00-23.00
Common .....	14.00-16.00	Medium .....	21.00-22.00
COWS:		YEARLINGS:	
Good .....	14.50-15.50	Good .....	16.00-18.00
Medium .....	13.00-13.50	Medium .....	14.00-15.00
Common .....	12.00-13.50	MUTTON:	
BULLS:		Good .....	12.00-13.00
Common .....	10.00-11.00	Medium .....	10.00-11.00
		Common .....	9.00-10.00

## NEW YORK

STEERS:		LAMBS:	
Choice .....	\$23.00	Choice .....	\$23.00-24.00
Good .....	19.00-22.00	Good .....	22.00-23.00
Medium .....	17.00-18.00	Medium .....	20.00-22.00
Common .....	14.00-16.00	Common .....	17.00-19.00
COWS:		MUTTON:	
Medium .....	13.00-14.00	Good .....	15.00
Common .....	12.00-13.00	Medium .....	13.00-14.00
BULLS:		Common .....	10.00-12.00
Common .....	9.00-10.00		

# FEEDSTUFFS

**P**RICES ON COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL declined slightly early in November, and then rebounded to about the basis prevailing on November 1. The cake market followed closely the violent fluctuations in the cotton market. On account of the coal strike, an embargo has been temporarily imposed against the shipment of cottonseed cake not in transit. The strike may result in the shutting-down of some of the mills, which may cause sharp changes in the price. On December 1 the price for cake at Texas mills was \$73, and at Oklahoma mills \$75, for standard 43 per cent protein.

Corn prices, both for futures and for cash, fluctuated violently during November. On December 1 they closed substantially the same as a month ago.

## CHICAGO CASH TRANSACTIONS

Corn, bu .....	\$ 1.37- 1.60
Oats, bu .....	.74- .82
Barley, bu .....	1.23- 1.54
Timothy hay, ton.....	25.00-32.00
Prairie hay, ton.....	20.00-28.00

## CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE QUOTATIONS

Articles	Close Dec. 1
Corn—	
January .....	\$1.34
May .....	1.33
July .....	1.33
Oats—	
May .....	.78
July .....	.74
Rye—	
January .....	1.52
May .....	1.53
Barley—	
May .....	1.41

It's a good thing the almighty dollar got its reputation before the high-cost wave struck us.—*Detroit Journal*.

## REVIEW OF EASTERN MEAT-TRADE CONDITIONS

For Week Ending December 5, 1919

[Bureau of Markets]

### GENERAL MARKET CONDITIONS

There has been but little activity at any of the eastern markets during the week, with prices generally steady on carcass meat. The colder weather of the past few days tended to stimulate the demand, and late conditions are slightly improved.

### BEEF

All markets continued practically steady on the lower grades of beef, with Boston showing an advance of 50 cents to \$1 during the week. New York and Philadelphia weakened on good steers, and both markets are \$1 lower than Monday. Good cows were held firm at Monday's opening prices, while the lower grades sold late in the week between 50 cents and \$1 lower. Under light receipts and light demand, bulls held generally steady, with a \$2 advance at Boston on common grades. Kosher markets showed the most activity, with price tendency upward and good beef in best demand.

### VEAL

Stable conditions have prevailed at all veal markets on the better grades of calves, with slightly higher prices toward the close. Heavy calves accumulated at New York under a slow demand, and declined \$1 since mid-week.

### PORK

Under heavy receipts and some accumulation, pork prices declined sharply. Boston is \$3 lower than Monday and \$6 lower than one week ago on loins. New York closed \$2 lower than Monday and about \$3 lower than the previous Friday, while Philadelphia averages less than \$1 decline since Monday and closed \$1 higher than one week ago. Other pork cuts weakened, with most cuts between \$1 and \$2 lower than Monday.

### LAMB

The demand for lambs was more regular than for other meats, and there has been a general price improvement, with an average advance of between \$1 and \$2 on all grades. Supplies were moved without any accumulation.

### MUTTON

Although receipts were light, mutton trade has been slow, with price tendency downward and most sales forced toward the close.

### MARKET CLOSING

Boston closed dull on beef and mutton, unsettled on pork, and firm to a shade higher on veal and lambs, with a few cars of beef on track. New York closed with a slightly better undertone and a moderate carry-over of beef and pork. Philadelphia closed steady on beef, with a moderate carry-over; veal firm, and lamb, mutton, and pork weak and liberal carry-over.

## OUR GRAIN CROP IN 1919

THE FOLLOWING TABLE exhibits the total acreage, total production (in bushels), and average yield per acre of the five principal cereals in the United States for 1919, as reported by the Department of Agriculture. For purposes of comparison, the aggregate crop figures for 1918 are also given:

Grain	Total Acreage, 1919	Total Production		Average Yield per Acre, 1919
		1919	1918	
Winter wheat.....	48,933,000	715,301,000	558,449,000	14.6
Spring wheat.....	22,503,000	203,170,000	358,651,000	9.0
<b>Total wheat.....</b>	<b>71,436,000</b>	<b>918,471,000</b>	<b>917,100,000</b>	
Corn.....	102,977,000	2,910,250,000	2,582,814,000	28.3
Rye.....	6,484,000	84,552,000	89,103,000	12.9
Oats.....	42,365,000	1,219,521,000	1,538,359,000	28.9
Barley.....	8,889,000	198,298,000	256,375,000	22.3

Of the forty-eight states, Kansas led in winter wheat with a total production of 144,807,000 bushels—almost three times as

much as its nearest competitor, Missouri, which produced only 56,943,000. In yield per acre, however, Arizona was first with 28 bushels, while Kansas had only 13, and drought-stricken Montana 5.5. In spring wheat North Dakota was far in the lead with a crop of 50,398,000 bushels, but New Mexico headed the list in acre yield with 24 bushels, to 6.9 for North Dakota and 5.2 for Montana.

In corn, Iowa with its 409,000,000 bushels was far in advance of Illinois with 296,208,000. Massachusetts produced 53 bushels to the acre, Iowa 40, and Montana 13.5.

Of rye the largest amount was grown in North Dakota—16,532,000 bushels. Michigan came next with 9,136,000. Massachusetts here again led in acre yield, harvesting 20 bushels, to North Dakota's 8.5 and Montana's 4.

The oat state *par excellence* is Iowa, with a total crop this year of 180,268,000 bushels. Illinois followed with 118,958,000. Texas, however, outstripped both these states in relative productivity, growing no less than 42 bushels to the acre, whereas Iowa could show but 34, Illinois 29, and Montana 12.

Barley is raised principally in California, which furnished 35,588,000 bushels of that cereal in 1919, to South Dakota's 27,412,000. In acre yield Arizona ranked first with 38 bushels, California produced 31, and Montana again came last with a meager 6.

## HIDE PRICES STILL DESCENDING

THERE HAS BEEN a further decline in packer hides during the past month. Since the peak reached in August the decline now amounts to about 28 per cent. Business on the whole has been quiet, the foreign-exchange situation, coupled with the coal strike, tending to depress the market. Tanners are restricting their purchases, and shoe manufacturers show little inclination to buy for more than their immediate needs, evidently anticipating a further reduction in values. *Hide and Leather* reports the following quotations on the Chicago market for the week ending November 29, compared with those for the corresponding week in 1918:

	Price per Pound (Cents)	
	1919	1918
Spready steers.....	48-49	30
Heavy native steers.....	46-47	29
Heavy Texas steers.....	37-38	27
Light Texas steers.....	37-38	26
Colorados.....	37-38	26
Branded cows.....	37-38	22
Heavy native cows.....	46-47	27
Light native cows.....	43-44	23
Native bulls.....	39-40	20½
Branded bulls.....	33-34	18½
Calfskins (country).....	70-87½	34-40

## FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN EUROPE

OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE continue to be reported from England. Especially does the Isle of Wight seem to be seriously affected. Stringent measures are being employed to stamp out the disease. At the same time advices from Berne announce that the plague is ravaging all parts of Switzerland. The Swiss government has forbidden the sale of cattle by farmers in the infected districts, and a military slaughtering department has been mobilized to kill infected animals. The epidemic is said to have reached Switzerland from Germany, Austria, and Italy. In the latter country it has been prevalent for some time.

One might remark that the unorganized housewife has no delusions about what constitutes a day's work.—*Chicago Daily News*.



# TRADE REVIEW

## APPREHENSION KEYNOTE AT INCEPTION OF NEW YEAR

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1919.

**P**ONDEROUS COMPILATION of 1919 trade reviews is in progress at this juncture. Some philosopher has said that the best feature of these reviews is that perusal is not compulsory. In conformity with custom, they will present an array of meaningless figures, proclaim the magnitude of the live-stock industry and the indispensable relation of the packer thereto, reiterate the fact that he has paid out an enormous sum in the aggregate and on a percentage basis to the producer, and finally parade a new set of records, \$20 cattle and \$23 hogs doing the spotlight stunt this time. Reviewers revel in superlatives. They assume that human memory is short. This season, however, explanation, plausible or otherwise, cannot be evaded; inference being that whatever vicissitude the producer has encountered will be charged to the Kenyon-Kendrick measures and the efforts of those advocating remedial legislation. Packer vindication will be the keynote of such lucubration as emanates from market editorial sanctums January 1; and, having thus diagnosed the case, the only possible remedy, "hands off," will be prescribed.

Assertion that at the inception of 1920 dissatisfaction exists among live-stock producers will not be disputed. Stock-yard atmosphere is constantly surcharged with it. Reiteration is superfluous, but the chapter of live-stock annals inscribed during the past twelve months is anything but reassuring. Most of the expectancy existing in producing circles died unfruitful. All this expectancy was not justified; doubtless producers have themselves blundered; hostile nature has been responsible in no small measure for balances figured in red ink; but the fact remains that something is radically wrong with basic conditions—a fact which packers refuse to admit. All through pending controversy the adamant and unequivocal attitude of the packer has been that existing systems are satisfactory; his stereotyped answer to all complaint, "Let us alone!"

Having outlined the theme of the market-review compilers, let us forecast what may be expected from Packingtown sources. This is not mere guesswork, as ample and legible handwriting is inscribed on the wall. A year ago, it will be remembered, packers explained that values advanced so rapidly, after they had acquired cattle, hogs, and sheep, that profits naturally piled up. On this occasion they will expatiate on the fact that the rules have been reversed. Inventory profits have failed to materialize, stocks in cellars have depreciated, and the packer, like the producer, has swallowed a dose of nauseous medicine. Misery is reported to love company—a fact the packer appreciates. Packingtown chroniclers have been admonished that this is an opportune moment to "lay off" the "prosperity stuff."

Regardless of what the editorial and reportorial vassals of the organized packing industry may say, discontent among producers was never so rampant or deep-seated as at this juncture. Such remedial legislation as the Kendrick-Kenyon bills propose has undoubtedly been discredited with the average grower as a result of the active propaganda carried on by packer publicity agencies. This has been facilitated by the

resentment at wretched transportation facilities furnished under government operation—a psychological condition of which the propagandists have not been slow to take advantage. "Look at what government operation has done to the railroads, and draw your own conclusions as to how it will hit the packing industry," has been the idea driven into the mind of the country unceasingly. Probably not one live-stock grower in a thousand has a lucid idea of what this remedial legislation proposes. Ask a dozen for an expression of opinion, and ten will reply that they are unalterably opposed to government control, which is what they have been convinced is the proposition. Packer publicity has been effective.

Conditions early in 1919 were favorable for error propagation. The Great War was over, Europe faced an empty larder, vast armies were to be demobilized, and only from North America was any considerable supply of beef, pork, and mutton possible. Roseate forecasts emanating from Packingtown gave this false premise credence. Probably packers themselves were deluded. For a few brief weeks the rainbow of profitable post-war trade illuminated the market horizon; then cattle values melted away as Europe disclosed its empty purse and United States government support was withdrawn, access by England to Southern Hemisphere supply sources aggravating the slump. Artificial support of the hog market delayed the inevitable crash in that bourse several months, but what happened to cattle trade in April was repeated in the swine market in August. For the sheep-grower it was a drab year from start to finish.

Great expectations rarely materialize, and in this respect 1919 was conventional. Enthused by Packingtown optimism, feeders and grazers took long chances that, in the light of subsequent events, insured loss in the finality of the transaction at its inception. Kansas grazers, for instance, paid impossible prices for stock cattle on grass, on the assumption that war prices would continue. Corn Belt feeders, supremely confident of the security of their position, carried cattle that should have been marketed in March and April weeks and months on a rising corn market, in an effort to avert loss that was unavoidable. That government support would be withdrawn as demobilization proceeded should have been foreseen; that Europe would not take any considerable quantity of American beef at the prices was probable. As it is, the most expensive crop of cattle ever prepared for the shambles has been cashed at prices far below expectancy and at a net loss in a majority of cases.

Sitting on a stock-yard fence top recently, a cattle-feeder, discussing trade evils, remarked: "If the packers would take us into their confidence, we might avoid some of these bumps that we encounter. Assuming that our interests are identical, they cannot profit in the long run by our losses."

"You are assuming that the packers have a definite policy, brother," said one of his auditors; "and in that you are right; but it is a policy that excludes us from participation. So far as the producer is concerned, the packer has but one policy, and it is as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. It is a policy that has made the packing industry enormously profitable, until it has become a swollen colossus of opulence. Its cardinal principle has always been, is now, and always will be, unless some obstacle intervenes, to take advantage of every possible opportunity to take off a nickel and take another critter 'out;' in other words, to crowd the producer. It is this system that has made the packing industry what it is. Little wonder, then, that its beneficiaries resent interference."

Meanwhile the lure of the game keeps producers everlastingly at it. Such losses as they have sustained this year, if concentrated, would spell ruin; diffused, they merely arouse discontent. In the finality, restriction of production, measured

by increasing consumptive demand, will be inevitable. To assume that breeders and feeders, or a majority of them, are satisfied with existing conditions is absurd; the whole trade, from Maine to California and from Texas to Alberta, seethes with unrest. Confidence is wholly lacking, which accounts for the nervous condition of the trade; wide weekly fluctuations exert anything but a reassuring influence, and only the uncertainty of the draw makes the game attractive. As the Englishman is reputed to love a lord, so is the average American farmer partial to a steer.

The less said about 1919 trade, the better. Conditions were unprecedented. A similar set may never recur; consequently such precedent as was created is valueless. Post-war readjustment was as inevitable as it was drastic; it remains to be seen whether the new trading basis is to possess, even in a moderate degree, the qualification of stability. As to what will happen in 1920, opinion varies. That packer buyers will pursue a consistent policy is "one best bet," to adopt sporting vernacular; and that policy, instead of promoting stability, detracts from it. Whenever live-stock growers and packers confer, the latter are profuse in assurance that stability is the thing they most desire; in practice they discredit themselves.

Certainly no such illusions concerning 1920 trade will be entertained as obsessed producers a year ago. That Europe will not buy much North American beef may be put down as an established fact. Domestic consumption, on which the grower must depend, was seriously impaired by war-period economy, and later by profiteering on the part of retailers and other distributors; the public discovering that it could get along with considerably less beef than during the ante-bellum period. But recently consumptive demand has shown marked and encouraging signs of revival, popular agitation has curtailed rapacity among distributors, and, as the industrial population is well employed at good wages, its purchasing power is strong. Hides and all by-product command good prices, and probably will, although a well-grounded suspicion exists that the producer has not had his full share of such appreciation.

Supply is a factor not to be ignored in formulating guesses of future market performance. A deficiency of approximately a million head in cattle receipts at the primary markets would have been vastly more had drought in the trans-Missouri region not forced hundreds of thousands of immature steers and females to the stock-yards. Not all were destined for the shambles, considerable salvage having been effected by transfer to Corn Belt feed-lots and grass in more favored regions; but, construed from any angle, the figures spell depletion. The continuous run of hoofs, hides, and horns that filled every western stock-yard during the latter half of the current year told its own story.

## EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN OCTOBER

**B**ELOW ARE SHOWN the exports of meat products from the United States in October, 1919, compared with October, 1918, and for the ten months ended October, 1919, compared with the same period last year:

BEEF PRODUCTS (Pounds)				
Classification	October		Ten Months Ended October	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Beef, canned.....	1,793,784	9,999,121	50,649,110	120,357,504
Beef, fresh.....	31,178,216	26,449,372	152,758,695	417,344,520
Beef, pickled, etc.....	3,402,422	5,752,000	36,543,869	36,130,143
Oleo, oil.....	6,810,457	1,316,112	62,442,739	62,006,895
Totals.....	43,184,879	43,516,605	302,394,413	635,839,062

## PORK PRODUCTS (Pounds)

Classification	October		Ten Months Ended October	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Bacon.....	56,462,312	58,131,739	1,065,995,491	905,488,727
Hams and shoulders.....	13,090,972	25,430,106	564,267,081	478,145,802
Lard.....	41,016,518	46,025,020	655,149,550	483,808,415
Neutral lard.....	1,733,938	152,031	21,892,468	6,241,052
Pork, pickled.....	3,804,290	2,083,404	25,083,784	31,862,609
Lard compounds.....	3,134,109	8,823,018	119,680,741	28,281,983
Totals.....	119,242,139	140,645,318	2,452,070,215	1,933,828,588

## OUR FOREIGN TRADE IN LIVE STOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

**T**ABULATED BELOW will be found the total numbers of live stock exported from and imported into the United States during the month of September, and the nine months ending September, 1919 and 1918, together with the imports of meat products for the same periods. For our exports of meat see November PRODUCER, page 38:

### LIVE STOCK

#### EXPORTS (Numbers)

Animals	September		Nine Months Ending September	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	6,500	243	53,312	8,656
Hogs.....	1,117	310	16,220	8,303
Horses.....	2,190	3,509	13,955	43,710
Mules.....	501	2,223	4,257	12,741
Sheep.....	5,934	39	22,596	6,598

#### IMPORTS (Numbers)

Animals	September		Nine Months Ending September	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Cattle.....	68,094	47,983	337,530	209,957
From United Kingdom.....			806	404
From Canada.....	64,605	45,603	270,893	120,527
From Mexico.....	3,310	2,295	65,029	86,844
From other countries.....	179	85	802	2,182
Hogs.....	1,138	1,064	19,952	2,694
Horses.....	304	201	3,557	3,356
Sheep.....	27,557	20,274	91,774	59,643

### MEAT PRODUCTS

#### IMPORTS (Pounds)

Articles	September		Nine Months Ending September	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Fresh—				
Beef and veal.....	3,356,870	3,485,976	28,360,827	11,983,188
Mutton and lamb.....	1,597,097	106,446	6,109,519	127,806
Pork.....	498,645	247,223	2,251,510	546,541
Total fresh meats.....	5,452,612	3,839,645	36,721,856	12,657,535
Prepared or preserved—				
Bacon and hams.....	129,406	167,830	2,446,509	337,981
Bologna sausage.....	21,907	2,006	36,482	4,446
All other.....	238,091	13,530,841	20,731,051	
Sausage casings.....	1,357,250	420,512	8,406,783	
Tallow.....	985,469	989,653	7,901,252	4,603,068
All other meat products.....	479,031	342,774	6,577,501	

\*Beginning July 1.



# FOREIGN

## ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, October 17, 1919.

THE LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY, which, as far as marketing prospects are concerned, has a fair government schedule of rising prices before it for the winter season, finds itself confronted by as big a crop of difficulties as it cares to face. The excessive dearth of hay and cake feed is supplemented by promise of a shortage in roots, which are all backward and mostly sparse. Turnips and swedes are expected to yield only 83 per cent, and mangolds 79 per cent, of an average crop. Pastures, too, are very thin.

Market supplies of fat stock, both cattle and sheep, have been larger during the last week or two in the country areas, but not so in London and Manchester. Universal remark is made of the unfinished condition of much of the stock, although sheep, with the better outdoor conditions, have shown better quality. Pigs also are more numerous. Veal calves are much dearer of late, best quality now fetching about 29 cents per pound.

After a striking lull in the trade for store stock previously occasioned by the winter outlook, there have been much-improved dealings in this section of the British live-stock trade, particularly for dairy cows. Prices for the best cows show a further advance at the Shrewsbury store-cattle sale, strong beasts in forward condition making up to \$19.25, but small young cattle ranged down to as low as \$9 per live cwt. Store sheep have been in rather better demand.

Ireland's total exports of cattle to Great Britain this year up to October 4 have been 354,331 fat cattle, 145,390 stores, 22,471 milk-cows, 49 calves, and 5,145 calves. These compare with the following totals for the corresponding period of 1918: 243,704 fat cattle, 231,971 stores, 25,390 milk-cows, 66 calves, 3,968 aged cattle intended for slaughter, and 18,199 calves. The total of sheep and lambs received from Ireland this year amounted to 400,404 head, and for last year 504,188 head, denoting that the decrease in sheep stock applies also to Ireland.

The present month has seen the institution of a newly organized system of live-stock grading put into force by the Ministry of Food, as a result of the experience gained in former seasons. Now each grading committee will consist of three members: (1) a farmer, representing the farmers tied to the market; (2) a butcher, representative of the butchers who draw the bulk of the supplies from the market; and (3) an independent grader, representing the Ministry of Food. Therefore the three interests will continue to be represented as before. The farmers and butchers have a voice in the nomination of the guardians of their respective interests, and the third member of the committee is the guardian of the interests of the Ministry of Food. Wherever possible, it is arranged for the ministry grader to operate in several markets each week. The ministry member of the grading committee will also be responsible for the general supervision of the weighing and allocation of stock. These representatives of the ministry are paid a daily fee of \$10 and expenses. Nominations for these positions are entertained from the various farmers' unions, live-stock traders' associations, and retail and wholesale butchers' organizations.

In my last letter I gave the returns of live stock in England and Wales, as furnished in the preliminary statement of the Board of Agriculture. I notice now that the estimates of the Departmental Committee on Live Stock and Meat Production very closely approximate to what statistics eventually showed the state of affairs to be. The numbers of cattle and sheep which have been slaughtered in Great Britain (according to the hide and sheepskin returns) are as follows:

	Cattle Slaughtered	Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered
October to December, 1918...	609,000	2,673,000
January to March, 1919.....	525,000	1,583,000
April to June, 1919.....	540,000	1,915,000

The agricultural returns for Great Britain as at June, 1918, showed the total number of cattle to be 7,410,000; sheep, 23,353,000; pigs, 1,825,000.

From June, 1918, to June, 1919, the slaughter of cattle each month was more nearly normal than in the previous twelve months, and the committee estimated that the number of cattle had been maintained. It was of opinion, however, that the flocks of the country had been much further reduced, and that the number of sheep and lambs in Great Britain was about 1,800,000 less than the number shown on June 4, 1918.

For the remaining six or nine months of government meat control—not many people expect that necessity will carry us farther than June 30, 1920, under that régime—the Food Controller's policy of graduated prices for live stock has been fixed in the light of past experience of his predecessors. The first Food Controller, Lord Devonport, in his time imposed a rising scale of prices which did not prove to produce the finished meat as the season required. Lord Rhondda in his turn fixed a descending scale that eventuated at times in rather undesirable market rushes. Mr. Roberts, the present Food Controller, or rather his experts, are supposed to have done better. The cattle-price increases act as from the middle of next month, for through September and October the first-grade rates have stood at \$19.25, second-grade at \$18, and third-grade at \$16.75 per cwt. This advances 24 cents per cwt. as from November 17, and so on fortnightly until by July 3, 1920, an increase of \$3.90 beyond the above-mentioned October rate is reached.

All land workers in England, according to a new ruling of the Wages Board, in future work forty-eight hours a week in winter and fifty hours in summer, the old summer weekly total being fifty-four.

Even a short strike of ten days—as the great railway strike turned out to be—was not unattended by losses of live stock, and pedigree sales were canceled in all quarters for the time being, many noted stock-breeders acting meanwhile as amateur railway men and transport workers.

## LIVE-STOCK CENSUS IN GERMANY

PROVISIONAL FIGURES are now available from the census of live stock taken in Germany on June 2 of the present year. According to these returns, there were on that date the following numbers of animals in the former empire (for comparison we add the official statistics for 1912):

	1919	1912
Cattle .....	16,798,815	20,153,738
Swine .....	8,887,474	21,885,073
Sheep .....	6,423,036	5,787,848

The census was taken exclusive of Alsace-Lorraine, the Palatinate, and Posen. This, of course, makes definite comparisons impossible. The one outstanding fact is the enormous decrease in the number of pigs, emphasizing a condition which, from all reports, has been the chief effect of the war on the European live-stock situation.

### NOTES ON BRITISH MEAT SITUATION

"**O**WING to the high price of meat," says the London *Meat Trades' Journal*, "the consumption has declined. People are taking only about three-quarters of the ration. At the same time cold stores throughout the country are full of meat, immense quantities are lying undischarged on board ship, and still greater quantities are on the sea."

"With regard to bacon, the Food Controller says it is his intention to reduce the maximum retail price of bacon as soon as the cost, including the loss on exchange, enables him to do so. Bacon is being sold at present by his department at a loss."

"The prospect before us for the winter is by no means a bright one," says the *Scotsman*. "Unless a miracle occurs to send us a supply of cake which will reduce prices, the winter feeding of cattle must be very limited, and markets will be supplied only with a quality of beef very unlike that to which we have been accustomed."

"The fact of it is, we are face to face with a world shortage of food supplies, and what is needed is the production of more food, not the carting about of what we have to various parts of the planet," comments *Justice*. "Let the 'Fight the Famine' Council help in rousing the country to the need of producing food at home, and we shall have more faith in its *bona fides* and intelligence."

### CHINESE PORK FOR ENGLAND

**C**ABLE ADVICES from London tell of prospective Chinese competition with American pork products. Already the first consignments of Chinese bacon have arrived at Liverpool, according to the *National Provisioner*, one steamer alone bringing 1,400 boxes. The bacon is placed in cold storage, the British government making allotments to various merchants under the government control system. A canvass of merchants developed the information that the Chinese product gives greater satisfaction than much of the bacon on the market, due to the bad shipping and warehouse conditions which have given American bacon such an undeserved black eye. The Chinese bacon also sells at considerably less than the American product.

### ENGLISH ACCLIMATIZATION FARMS IN BRAZIL

**R**EPORTS reach us from Brazil that English breeders intend to establish acclimatization farms for pure-bred stock in that country. The movement is said to have the support of the British government. Model farms will be leased and used for the acclimatization, breeding, and sale of pure-bred stock from Great Britain.

### BAN ON VEAL LIFTED IN ENGLAND

**I**N VIEW of the emergency existing at present, the British Food Controller has revoked the recently issued order restricting the sale of veal. Veal may now be sold to registered customers by any general butcher. The maximum prices will be those which were in force when the restriction order went into effect.

### EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK TO BELGIUM

**D**URING the first half of October there were exported from the port of New York 3,200 steers to Antwerp, Belgium. It was planned to ship an additional 3,000 head during the remainder of the month. The shipments originated in Canada. The freight rate to Antwerp has been reduced from \$100 to \$75 per head.

### CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK NOTES

BY H. S. ARKELL  
*Dominion Live-Stock Commissioner*

**T**HE TOTAL SALES of live stock at Canadian stock-yards during the first ten months of the present year show an increase of 114,500 cattle, 45,800 calves, and 191,000 sheep, and a decrease of 6,600 hogs, compared with the sales during the same period of 1918. A very large percentage of the increase in cattle and sheep was made during the months of September and October, while the total decrease in hogs was appreciably lessened by the heavy marketings during the two months referred to. Despite the increased volume of cattle, the average price on good weights and quality steers was only one cent a pound less than the average for the same class of cattle during October, 1918, while the average sales of good-quality calves were made at three-quarters of a cent above the average obtaining a year ago. The tremendous increases in sheep marketing reduced the average of good lambs by about three cents a pound. In the case of hogs it is of some interest to note that the market during October, despite the heavy marketing at that period, was lower by only one and one-twelfth cents when compared with the average price during the same month of 1918.

Of a total of 769,050 butcher cattle marketed at Canadian stock-yards during the ten months ending October 31, it is a matter for sober consideration that scarcely more than 2 per cent were steers weighing above 1,200 pounds. It is apparent that, if Canada is to occupy a position of prominence in the export beef business, a great deal of improvement must be made in the weights of cattle produced. Good weights are to a large degree intimately associated with quality. It is very rare, except in the case of baby beef, that choice-quality meat is obtainable from cattle weighing less than 1,000 pounds. In this connection it is found that of the total marketings of cattle during the first ten months of the present year, 65,960 head represented common steers and heifers weighing less than 1,000 pounds per head. Further, 208,725 head (over 25 per cent) of the total marketings were steers and heifers of all grades weighing below 1,000 pounds.

Killings of live stock at inspected establishments in Canada for the ten months ending October 31 totaled 705,453 cattle (including calves), 406,344 sheep, and 1,916,984 hogs.

During the ten months ending October 31 the total exports of live stock from Canada amounted to 299,380 cattle, 70,234 calves, 130,177 sheep, and 28,616 swine. Of the total exports, 201,087 cattle, 24,893 calves, 52,872 sheep, and 1,090 hogs were purchased at Canadian stock-yards.

### CANADA TO PROBE PACKERS

**I**T WAS ANNOUNCED at Toronto recently by W. H. Price, government counsel in the cost-of-living inquiry, that evidence concerning the activities of the big meat-packers in Canada would be introduced. The name of the Canadian Packers, Ltd., was also mentioned.

### JAPANESE TO ENTER MEAT TRADE

**J**APAN has begun the construction of refrigerating ships, with the object of engaging in the frozen beef and mutton trade. Vegetables and other perishable foods will also be carried. Much trade of this nature is expected from the United States, owing to the failure of our Shipping Board to build ships of this character.



## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

*[Special Correspondence to The Producer]*

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, October 29, 1919.

**N**O IMPROVEMENT can be reported in the weather conditions of eastern Australia, and the great bulk of the country is terribly dry. An actual drought prevails over about two-thirds of New South Wales, comprising the north and west of that state. Things are pretty nearly as bad in the north of South Australia and throughout Queensland and the far north of the continent. The only parts really safe at the time of writing are the south of Victoria and South Australia, and the southern and central districts of Western Australia. It is difficult to arrive at an estimate as to what the losses of stock have been, but it is feared that they must be serious in New South Wales, where the season is worst. For one thing, the autumn and winter drop of lambs has been practically lost in the north and west, and the mortality among ewes has been heavy.

The most unsatisfactory features connected with the present drought are its widespread character and the scarcity of fodder. Usually when one part of the country gets short of feed it is possible to obtain agistment elsewhere. This year there is comparatively little relief country carrying grass within a reasonable distance of the starving stock, and what there is has generally been overstocked and more or less eaten out. Anybody fortunate enough to hold a few thousand acres of grass country is able to let it at most remunerative rates. Up to \$5 an acre is being paid for six months' grazing rights on country that will not carry a sheep to the acre. The shortage of fodder has sent values for hay, chaff, and grains up to almost prohibitive prices. Local-grown lucerne hay is today selling in Sydney at up to \$75 a ton, chaff at \$77.50 a ton, maize at over \$2 a bushel, and oats at \$1.45 a bushel. This is at the seaboard, and to get the feed inland to the drought country would cost another \$3 to \$6 per ton for railage alone. Values at the other capital cities are not so high, but even in Melbourne oaten chaff is fetching over \$52, and in Adelaide nearly \$50.

As might be expected, the live-stock markets show weakness. Lines suitable for freezing for export or the local butchering trade keep fairly firm, but there is very little demand for stores—especially sheep and lambs. On the Melbourne market recently shorn prime cross-bred wethers are selling for about \$7.20, and ewes for \$6. Prime freezer lambs are worth \$5.50. Good bullocks range at about \$140 a head.

Returns giving the numbers of stock marketed in Sydney tell an eloquent tale of the grazing conditions in New South Wales. For the month of September, 1919, 25,752 cattle and 361,029 sheep were yarded for the so-called fat-stock sales. The yardings for the corresponding month of last year, when there were probably 8,000,000 more sheep in the country, besides more cattle, were only 15,941 cattle and 81,208 sheep. Only 40 per cent of the sheep and 30 per cent of the cattle offered in September, 1919, could be classed as fat and fit for the local trade or freezers. A proportion of the balance were taken by canners, and the rest must have been sold as stores for whatever they would fetch. It is calculated that something like 70,000 sheep, as well as a couple of thousand cattle, are being sold every week as a result of the drought, and the sales included much valuable breeding stock in low condition. The direct loss on the premature sale of stock is estimated at \$500,000 per week.

The North Island of New Zealand is experiencing a wet and cold spring, but plenty of feed should be available for the summer. The northern parts of the South Island are also

wet, and the outlook fairly good, while the far south is dry and feed scarce.

The various meat-works in Australia, with the exception of those in the north (Queensland), are busy treating mutton and lamb for export. The actual clearances of frozen meat from the Commonwealth during the three months, July, August, and September, were 590,000 carcasses of mutton, 162,000 carcasses of lamb, and 483,000 quarters of beef. As far as mutton and lamb are concerned, this represents rather less than the numbers killed, and we finished the quarter with full stores. The beef export trade is confined to Queensland, and the season there has about closed. Comparatively little killing of cattle for export has been done during the past couple of months, and consequently the stores in Queensland are now being emptied. Complete figures for October shipments are not available, although they promise to be large, and likewise for November. The meat is still being shipped under the old contracts with the imperial government. Negotiations are proceeding for higher prices, but no finality has been reached.

The clearances of frozen meat from New Zealand for the July-September quarter reached the large total of 1,115,000 carcasses of mutton, 616,000 carcasses of lamb, and 198,000 quarters of beef. This has done something toward relieving the congestion at the freezing-works—not but what the position there is still serious. Shipments during October have been considerable, and yet it is estimated that over 4,250,000 carcasses are lying in store at the time of writing. The new killing season starts toward the end of November, and, given favorable weather, between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 sheep and lambs will probably be treated. The companies operating in New Zealand have made big additions to the storage capacity of their works during the last few years. At the beginning of the war the aggregate capacity was equal to 2,200,000 sixty-pound carcasses, and it now stands at 7,400,000 carcasses. A very large amount of capital is sunk, and one wonders how all the space can be profitably utilized in those far-off days when conditions again become normal. While the storage capacity has been trebled, it is very certain the volume of business to be handled cannot even be anything like doubled.

The federal elections are due the middle of December, and the leaders of the National and Socialist parties are busy window-dressing. Both are wooing the producer with manifold promises, but from present indications it looks as if the former would carry most weight. One of the principal tickets in the National window is government financial assistance to co-operation. This does not apply so much to the societies that buy and sell on behalf of local groups of farmers, as to the clubbing-together of all producers of a particular article, such as wheat, butter, or apples, and the formation of a co-operative pool for the purpose of sale and distribution. Wheat, butter, and wool pools, brought into being by the war, are still in existence, but, as they are mainly controlled by the government, and compulsory, do not meet with general approval. However, they show what can be done in that direction, and there is a steadily growing feeling among producers that the principle is right, provided the pools can be managed on business and not governmental lines. Supposing the National party is returned to power and carries out its promises, the formation of co-operative pools for various products would be possible. The difficulty in the past has been finance. It is obviously impossible for a co-operative society to command sufficient capital to finance, say, the wheat crop of Australia, unless the government backs the bill. We are situated so far from the world's markets that it takes a long time to clear up a crop, and few farmers could afford to wait six or twelve months for their return. Failing a federal or state backing, the pools will probably lapse when the present control ends; and that

means reverting to the old system of competitive buying and selling by merchants

The show-card of the Socialists, designed to attract producers, is a general promise of a fair deal for farmers, embellished with certain vague talk of the world's parity for produce. At the same time, the party is definitely committed to a policy to reduce the cost of living in the cities. Everybody knows that means fixing the price of meat, bread, and dairy produce for local consumption at considerably below export parity.

A constitution-amendment referendum is to be taken at the general election, and, if the questions submitted are agreed to by the necessary majority, they will give the federal government very wide power over commerce and industry. One of the avowed objects of the proposed amendments is to enable the Commonwealth government to deal effectively with trusts and combines, which, according to legal rulings, are at present outside its jurisdiction. The American meat trust has, at one time and another, been quoted as one of the combines that it might be necessary to stamp out. Lately the Americans appear to have been lying low in Australia. As a matter of fact, they cannot well do otherwise while the imperial meat-commandeer is in force. At least Swift's, Armour's, and Cudahy's are represented here by certain organizations, and perhaps others are operating under different names. Prior to the war it was said that one or other of the companies was trying to absorb some of our leading meat-freezing works, but apparently it did not succeed. Swift's, as your readers probably know, trading under the name of the Australian Meat Export Company, built large works of their own at Brisbane and Townsville, from which they have been supplying meat to the imperial government, the same as local companies.

As far as is publicly known, only one American company has gained a footing in New Zealand. This is Armour's, who some time back bought a wool and skin business in Christchurch. The Dominion government is alive to the danger of the trust, and has passed a law making it necessary for any firm or person who carries on the business of meat-exporter to operate under license. The license is valid for only twelve months, and is cancelable by the Minister for Agriculture at any time without reference to Parliament. The minister can also refuse to license a slaughter-house, if he has reason to believe the business is being carried on contrary to the public interest. Whether this law would be effective in stopping an alien firm from operating, if it really set its mind to do so, has yet to be proved. Ministers for agriculture are not all infallible, and one might get into power that would make a mistake.

The report of the New Zealand Parliamentary Industries Committee recently issued contains some pregnant remarks on this very point. It says:

"The belief is general that the American meat trust is already operating in the Dominion, and that it will not be long before it spreads out its tentacles to seize upon the frozen-meat industry. There is no difference of opinion as to the necessity for preventing the establishment of this monopoly, and all who are interested in the freezing industry look to the government to save them from what they consider would be a calamity. The committee would urge that the utmost vigilance be exercised by the government as to the operations of meat-buying firms in this country, so that the American meat trust may be prevented from getting a strangle-hold on one of our main industries."

The evidence obtained by the committee on the subject is not yet available, but, from information supplied by the members, there is reason for fearing that the measures already taken by the government to check the operations of the trust have not been attended by any appreciable results.

The New Zealand Farmers' Union conference held the other day discussed the meat-trust menace, and carried resolutions requesting the government to see that legislation was provided in order to keep meat and shipping trusts from

operating in New Zealand. It was decided to ask the government to inquire into the operations of the trust, and determine whether the high prices offered in some districts for hogs were being made by firms interested in the trust, with the object of obtaining a controlling influence over the pork market in New Zealand; and also to publish the names of representatives of the meat trust, and the names under which the trust was operating in the Dominion.

The new season's Australian wool clip is coming down to the coast more slowly than usual. One reason is that the railways are extra busy moving live stock and carrying fodder on account of the drought. Generally speaking, the clip is opening up rather better than expected, although, of course, it is not up to last year's standard. A large percentage of the fleeces from the dry areas are dry and tender, and dust is prevalent. Among the top prices of the month for greasy Merino is 52 cents for Midkin, N. S. W.; 52 cents for Terrick, and 54 cents for Isis Downs, the two latter grown in Queensland. Quite a number of other lines were appraised at over 50 cents a pound. It must be understood that these are the appraisement prices under the British government's purchase scheme. The shipments oversea from the Commonwealth for the quarter ending September 30 are given as 338,678 bales, which, at an average of 340 pounds to the bale, represents something over 115,000,000 pounds.

### AUSTRALIAN MEAT-BRANDING

IT IS STATED that the present method of branding meat in Australia, by attaching a tag to the cover under the carcass, permits of fraudulent practices. Persons remove the tags and sell Australian meat abroad under other names than as originally tagged. A request has been made to the Australian Minister of Agriculture that in future all branding be done by burning or with indelible ink.

### PARAGUAY AS A CATTLE COUNTRY

IT IS ONLY WITHIN RECENT YEARS, we are told in the London *Economist*, that there has been evinced any marked interest in the productive capacities of Paraguay. This country is considered equal to Argentina in point of advantages offered to the pursuit of the cattle industry, and unquestionably is superior in this respect to all other South American states, especially as far as climate, water, and labor are concerned. The superior quality of its herbage and its comparative freedom from insect pests have latterly been "discovered" by at least one large British cattle-raising and meat-freezing company, whose experience has proved decidedly encouraging. There is abundant room for others, and the government is following a wise policy in regard to granting concessions to suitable applicants.

It is only just now that Paraguay is recovering from the almost complete annihilation of its once large male population, which during the long wars of the Lopez régime was gradually wiped out. Even as recently as ten years ago there were twelve women to every man, and the proportion is still very unequal. But, taught by necessity, the women of Paraguay have developed into excellent laborers and agriculturists.

The cattle industry of Paraguay is making remarkable headway. Whereas in 1877 there were not more than 200,000 horned beasts in the country, the census of 1915 showed 5,249,043 cattle, 600,000 sheep, 478,000 horses, 35,000 mules and asses, 61,000 hogs, and 87,000 goats roaming the pampas. Since then, however, there have been considerable additions to the herds of cattle, the number of which may now safely be placed at close to 7,000,000. Thus Paraguay, with its 750,000 inhabitants, is, next to Uruguay, the country possessing the largest number of cattle in proportion to population.



## REFRIGERATED-MEAT INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA

ACCORDING TO A WRITER in *El Campo*, of Buenos Aires, semi-official estimates give the number of cattle in Argentina in 1918 as 27,050,000 and of sheep as 44,850,000. The author believes, however, that these figures are much too low. The great development of cattle-raising in Argentina is due to the growing of alfalfa. In 1895 that forage plant was cultivated on only 1,750,000 acres, while in 1918 it was grown on an acreage of more than 22,000,000. In 1913 the total value of animal products was \$193,000,000, or 40 per cent of the total exports of the country; while in 1917 the value of the animal products amounted to \$363,000,000, or 68 per cent of the total exports.

The exports of meat from Argentina remained about stationary from 1911 to 1915. In 1916 there was an increase of 32 per cent over 1915. In 1917 they amounted to 559,216 metric tons (of 2,205 pounds).

In 1914 13,000 tons of meats preserved by cold were exported from Argentina, in 1917 100,000 tons, and in 1918 about 150,000 tons.

In the refrigerating establishments of Argentina 15,000 cattle and 25,000 sheep are slaughtered daily, and 30,000 workmen are employed. North American companies have installed vast refrigerating establishments in Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. In Uruguay 141,000 animals were slaughtered by these establishments in 1913, against 528,000 (about half of the total production) in 1917. During the first seven months of 1915 Brazil exported only six tons of preserved meats, while during the same period in 1918 she exported 10,000 tons. In Paraguay there are three large meat-refrigerating establishments.

## IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE BY BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT

ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH *Board of Trade Journal*, the Brazilian government realizes the necessity for improving the quality of Brazilian cattle. In the Chamber of Deputies at Rio de Janeiro the Minister of Agriculture, in submitting the budget for his department for the next year, estimated that there are 30,000,000 head of cattle in Brazil at the present time, including 20,000,000 cows, of which 12,000,000 are fit for breeding purposes. For the proper crossing of these herds, the minister stated, it will be necessary to import 120,000 bulls during the next ten years, or an average of 12,000 bulls per year.

## MEXICAN CATTLE SITUATION CHAOTIC

NO RELIABLE STATISTICS are obtainable as to the present supplies of live stock in Mexico. The opinion prevails, reports the United States commercial attaché in that country, that the numbers are only about 25 per cent of those existing in 1910. Since that year the greatest stock-raising sections of the republic have been the scene of almost continuous turmoil. Large herds of cattle were annihilated. Those which escaped the revolutionists were often slaughtered by their owners in an effort to save them from the bandits. As a consequence, the year 1918 found vast territories practically depleted of their live stock. Conditions are now somewhat improved, and efforts are being put forth to increase the production.

In 1915 and 1916 dressed beef was selling at Mexico City for 4 to 6 cents a pound. During the past eighteen months the prices of all classes of dressed meat have advanced 100 to 110 per cent. In October, 1919, beef sold at 14 cents a pound, mutton at 22 cents, and goat meat at 15 to 18 cents.

## MADAGASCAR AS A CATTLE COUNTRY

MADAGASCAR, with its immense steppes, its grassy brush on hills which cover nine-tenths of its area, represents a type of country suitable for intensive pastoral stock-raising, according to the *Review* published by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The number of cattle found in the island is given as 7,000,000 head. About 120,000 head are annually available for export. To take care of this surplus, five plants for the preparation of frozen and tinned meat products have been established. Most of the cattle belong to the zebu type—small, short-legged, short-rumped, with well-developed forequarters, humped withers, slender necks, and long, lyre-shaped horns. Improvement of this native stock is quite feasible, but would have to be undertaken by Europeans, as the natives are loath to change their time-honored methods of breeding and feeding.

## MOROCCAN SHEEPSKINS

ACCORDING TO A NOTICE recently published in the French press, Moroccan sheepskins possess certain qualities which make them superior to those of other countries. The closeness of the pores gives them a fineness of grain, suppleness, and firmness which render them particularly suitable for the leather-dressing industry. The best qualities come from the mountainous regions of Morocco. The skins are sold with or without the wool. In spite of the heavy requirements for the native industry, the export trade in sheepskins from Morocco is always very active, and in 1914 amounted to 2,700,000 pounds.

## SWISS DO NOT LIKE AMERICAN BACON

IN A COMMUNICATION to the Department of State the American consul at Berne reports that, "though large quantities of American pork, lard, and salted bacon have been imported into Switzerland and are offered for sale, they do not find especial favor with the Swiss consumer, and are sold at a lower price than similar articles of native production. Swiss people hold American bacon in low esteem." This dislike may be accounted for partly by the preference of the Swiss for hogs fattened on vegetables, and not upon corn and other grains. American packers, it is declared, should study the preferences of the Swiss people when preparing goods for marketing in that country.

## NEW MEAT-PACKING PLANT AT TIEN TSIN

THE CHINA MONGOLIA EXPORT COMPANY, of Tien Tsin, China, an American concern, has recently commenced work on a new cold-storage, meat-packing, and egg-albumen plant. As an adjunct thereto, the company will conduct a modern slaughter-house with stock-yards. The site contains six acres, and is located in the Russian concession of the town. The plant is situated conveniently to both the railroad and the water front. Construction on the buildings is expected to be completed in four months.

## ARGENTINE WOOL EXPORTS DECREASE

SHIPMENTS OF WOOL to the United States from Argentina for the eight months beginning October 1, 1918, amounted to 62,505 bales of 924 pounds, as against 149,149 bales during the same period in 1917-18—a decrease of 58 per cent. On the other hand, exports of wool from Uruguay to this country increased during the same period, 37,628 bales being shipped, as compared with but 12,965 bales for the same period of 1917-18.

# ROUND THE RANGE

## AUSTRALIAN MARKET METHODS DIFFERENT FROM OURS

Australian methods of handling live stock differ greatly from those prevailing in America, according to Mr. Sidney Kidman, a large cattle-raiser from South Australia, who is paying his first visit to the United States. Mr. Kidman's ranches, scattered over the Australian continent, comprise an area of more than 121,000 square miles. He estimates that his live-stock holdings number about 700,000 cattle, 300,000 sheep, and 125,000 horses, besides 500 camels, which latter animals are employed in carrying wool to shipping points and supplies back to the ranches, or "stations" as they are called there.

Cattle are marketed much younger in this country than in Australia, says Mr. Kidman. Bullocks there are sold at from five to eight years of age. They come to market straight from the range, where feed, as a rule, is abundant and the climatic conditions favorable. The Australian stock-yards are not supplied with weighing scales—a feature wholly new to Mr. Kidman. Everything is sold by dressed weight.

In Australia the railroads are owned and operated by the government. Such a thing as feeding in transit is unknown. Cattle are frequently hauled long distances by rail, requiring four or five days of travel and frequent transfers, without the slightest provision being made for feed, water, or rest. If the stock arrives at the railway station more than thirty minutes later than the time agreed on, the shipper is heavily fined—usually the cost of the train. The administration, however, shows no favoritism, large shippers like Mr. Kidman, who annually pays over \$150,000 to one road alone, receiving exactly the same treatment as the man whose freight bills amount to only \$100 a year.

Mr. Kidman, in commenting on the drought ravaging large portions of the Australian continent during the past season, mentions casually that in one instance he lost over 75,000 head of cattle from that cause. Millions of acres of pasture land, he says, are still awaiting settlers, and he expresses surprise that so few Americans are attracted to that country.

## MEAT CONSUMPTION IN CITY AND COUNTRY

On a per-capita basis, farmers are the chief consumers of pork and poultry in this country, while city dwellers eat a greater proportion of beef, veal, and mutton. The total per-capita meat consumption is 9 per cent greater in the country than in the city, according to statistics compiled by the Bureau of Crop Estimates. On the other hand, beef consumption is nearly two-thirds greater in the city. In both veal and mutton consumption the city exceeds the country—veal by 119 and mutton by 43 per cent. What the country loses in the per-capita consumption of beef, veal, and mutton is, however, more than offset by what it gains in pork and poultry. In the city pork and poultry constitute 48 per cent of the total meat consumption, while in the country they make up 71 per cent. Per-capita consumption of beef, veal, and poultry is higher in the North than in the South, but in pork consumption the South leads. The West is above the other sections in beef and mutton consumption, is barely below the leading section, the North Atlantic, in veal consumption, is lowest in poultry consumption, and, except in comparison with the North Atlantic states, is likewise lowest in pork consumption.

## "THE SHORTHORN WORLD" GIVES THANKS

The Thanksgiving edition of the *Shorthorn World* has reached our desk. It is a pleasure to look through its 200 pages of clean-cut, well-edited Shorthorn news. The front cover is a work of art; the illustrations and advertising sections are examples of the craftsman's skill. A more forceful exposition of the fine qualities of the breed it would be hard to imagine. THE PRODUCER extends its congratulations.

## NEW ARMOUR PLANT AT ST. PAUL

The new plant of Armour & Co., at South St. Paul, Minn., was formally opened on November 19, when killing began. The plant has a capacity of 7,500 hogs, 2,000 sheep, 1,000 calves, and 750 cattle a day.

## LIVE STOCK GERMANY MUST TURN OVER

Now that the ratification of the Peace Treaty, with or without action by the United States Senate, seems impending, it may not be amiss to call attention to the provision of the treaty requiring Germany to deliver to the governments of France and Belgium, in three monthly instalments within three months after the exchange of ratifications, the following numbers of farm animals in place of those killed or taken away by the invaders:

### To France—

500 stallions  
30,000 fillies and mares  
2,000 bulls  
90,000 milch-cows  
1,000 rams  
100,000 sheep  
10,000 goats

### To Belgium—

200 stallions, large Belgian type  
5,000 mares, large Belgian type  
5,000 fillies, large Belgian type  
2,000 bulls  
50,000 milch-cows  
40,000 heifers  
200 rams  
20,000 sheep  
15,000 sows

## FISH-MEAL AS A FOOD FOR LIVE STOCK

In Scandinavia and elsewhere on the continent of Europe fish-meal has been found very useful in the feeding of live stock, according to a writer in the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture*, London. In Great Britain its use for pigs is now widespread and increasing, while recent experiments indicate that it forms a satisfactory food for calves.

Fish-meal has been fed with satisfactory results to cattle to the extent of two or three pounds per head per day by Scottish cattle-feeders. The richness of the meal in albuminoids marks it out as a particularly desirable supplement to a diet of roots and straw. It has been demonstrated that fish-meal can be fed to dairy cows to the extent of four pounds per head daily, or even more, without imparting a fishy taint to the milk. For calf-rearing purposes likewise this high percentage of albuminoids and "bone phosphate" must be regarded as particularly advantageous.

Experiments have confirmed the view, which is steadily gaining ground in practice, that fish-meal is an excellent feeding-stuff for pigs. In tests conducted at Leeds, in which fish-meal formed from one-ninth to one-seventh of the total dry food, rising in the last month to more than one pound per head daily, no detrimental influence on the appearance, color, smell, or cooking qualities of the meat could be detected.



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## HOW TO SKIN ANIMALS

(Oregon Farmer)

No matter how good you are at trapping fur-bearers, if you are a careless and indifferent skinner, you are needlessly losing a lot of money.

You should not let your real efforts cease after getting the animals in your traps; there is important work left for you to do in getting your furs to market in the best condition. The first step is to skin the fur-bearers right.

Skinning has two main divisions—"casing" and taking the pelts off "open."

The following animals should be cased: muskrat, mink, skunk, opossum, coyote, wolf, foxes of all kinds, civet, house cat, lynx, lynx cat, ringtail cat, fisher, marten, otter, wolverine, and weasel.

In casing, begin at the root of the tail and cut the skin down the back of the hind legs. Rip the skin carefully from the hind legs. Slit the tail part of the way up and remove the tail bone. With a sharp knife cut the skin loose about the eyes and nose. Then suspend the carcass by the hind legs, and with an easy downward motion work the pelt loose, turning the fur side in as you peel it off.

Cut the tails off opossum and muskrat, as they are worthless, but leave them on all the other animals. The head should never be cut off; always skin and stretch it carefully. The feet may be cut off rats, coon, opossum, skunk, civet, foxes of all kinds, mink, marten, fisher, ermine; but such animals as bears, mountain lions, wolves, and wolverines should have the feet skinned out to the ends of the toes. Always remove the bones from the feet, and also the tail bones in wolf and red fox. Often when the bone is left in the tail of red fox the tissue around the bone disintegrates and decomposition sets in. If you use these precautions, it will increase the value of your furs.

Skins of raccoon, badger, bear, wild-cat, and beaver should be taken off open. Cut them down the center of the belly from the mouth to the tail, and slit down the back of the hind legs and the inside of the front legs. Work the skin off gradually and evenly.

After you have removed the skin from the carcass, you should scrape the pelt clean of all excess meat and fat. In scraping do not use a sharp knife, and be careful not to cut through the hide. If you scrape too closely, it will injure the roots of the furs. Also remove all mud, burrs, dirt, etc., from the fur. When the pelts have been skinned and thoroughly cleaned they are ready for the stretchers. Stretching should follow as soon after skinning as possible.

## NATIONAL SWINE SHOW AT DES MOINES NEXT YEAR

The officers of the National Swine Growers' Association have decided to hold the Fifth Annual National Swine Show and Exposition at Des Moines, Iowa, during the week beginning October 4, 1920. The show will fall in the same position in the circuit of fairs and expositions as in the past.

## DINGO DOG A MENACE TO AUSTRALIAN SHEEP HERDS

With reports coming in from all over the West telling of the increased depredations of the coyote, in spite of all efforts to reduce his numbers, it is not uninteresting to read about the very similar experience of Australia. In the *Pastoral Review* of Melbourne a correspondent writes of one of the most destructive pests with which the sheep-breeders of that continent have to contend:

"Just now the rabbits have ceased to be the deadly peril that they were. With picked rabbit skins at anything up to \$1.70 a pound, there is money in bunny; but he is a parasite industry, and he eats up the sustenance of the far more valuable lambs and sheep. Kangaroo skins, too, are good property. But the curse of the west country is the wild dog—the real dingo, not the half-bred mongrel of the towns, who is also a curse to sheep. The dingo all of a sudden came again in South Australia some years ago, and his ravages were only stayed there by an increase in the bonus and a vigorous campaign of destruction. Then he surged up against the rabbit-and dog-proof fences which had been put up on the border. Here and there, where waterless stretches of bad country made supervision all but impossible, he found weak sections and came in. He also got around in Queensland, and before long droves of dingoes were established in the scrub and hill country of the West, carrying depredation far and wide, and breeding up as if they meant to combine the rabbit and the fox pests in their own."

## CHEESE FROM SHEEP'S MILK

Cheese made from the milk of ewes is one of the latest industries of California. In Yolo County two progressive Greek farmers have built up a considerable trade in this new product, the manufacture of which they started a few years back as a small-scale adjunct to their mutton and wool business. This year's output, we read in the *National Wool Grower*, will total 75,000 pounds. The market extends as far east as Chicago. Recognizing that the popularity of cheese is in direct ratio to its olfactory appeal, the thrifty Hellenes have bestowed on the new brand the aromatic name of "feta."

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### NEVADA'S STOCKMAN TO PUBLISH HIS OWN PAPER

Not to be outdone by its neighbor on the West, the Nevada Live Stock Association now has entered the ranks of state organizations ambitious to boast an organ of their own. The first number of the *Nevada Stockgrower* has reached our desk. The new publication will have offices at Reno, and Vernon Metcalf, secretary of the association, will be the editor.

THE PRODUCER may be pardoned for considering the attractive title-page of the *Stockgrower* a compliment to its own good taste. Keenly alive to the many pitfalls at present surrounding the publishing business, and with the latest census returns from Nevada fresh in our memory, we may likewise be forgiven for expressing our admiration of the pluck of this downy chick venturing out to brave the vicissitudes of life on its own account. Nevertheless, may it find the scratching good!

### HORN-RINGS AS INDICATING AGE OF CATTLE

In our November issue we published an illustrated article on the teeth of cattle as an indication of their age. Whether the teeth or the horn-rings furnish the more reliable clue is discussed in the *Breeder's Gazette*, which has this to say of the rings:

"Most people 'read' the rings of the horns incorrectly. At about two years of age a small ring appears at the base of the horn, and another at three years. Then these two preliminary rings fuse and almost disappear; but a deep ring soon forms and indicates the fourth year. Correctly to judge age from the horns, one should count the smooth tip and the first slightly marked ring as representing three years, and add one year for each additional ring. In the aged animal there is a marked depression or lessening in circumference at the base of the horn, which, together with loss of the broad parts of the incisors or great wear of those teeth, may be accounted unmistakable evidences of advanced age."

It should, however, be borne in mind that the horns of show cattle and of many pedigreed animals have been scraped smooth and polished.

### SHEEP-KILLING DOG IN CONNECTICUT

Dog wardens killed more than 5,000 dogs in Connecticut during the year ending September 30, announces the Department of Agriculture. Many were killed while interfering with sheep. Less injury to flocks has resulted than in any previous year—due perhaps to the so-called "Roaming-Dog Law," which went into effect July 1. The sheep industry in Connecticut has increased 33½ per cent in the past two years.

### UNITED STATES LAGS BEHIND IN CONSUMPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Although Uncle Sam is the champion dairyman of the world, he is only mediocre as a consumer of butter and cheese. The records of the per-capita consumption of dairy products which are available are not directly comparable, because the figures from many foreign lands are old. According to the latest figures collected by the Department of Agriculture, the annual per-capita consumption of cheese, in pounds, looks like this:

Denmark .....	12.3	Italy .....	4.8
United Kingdom...	11.2	Australia .....	4.8
France .....	8.1	United States ..	3.8
Netherlands ....	8.0	Canada .....	3.0
Norway .....	7.1	New Zealand..	3.0
Switzerland ....	5.3	Argentina ....	2.9

As to butter, the records show the following average consumption per year, in pounds:

Australia .....	25.6	Norway .....	14.0
New Zealand....	21.7	Netherlands ..	11.3
Denmark .....	19.0	Switzerland ..	11.0
United Kingdom.	19.0	Italy .....	2.5
United States ..	17.5	Argentina ....	1.7
Canada .....	16.3		

The most recent figures show that the average daily consumption of dairy products in the United States per capita runs thus: condensed milk, 0.49 ounce; skim-milk powder, 0.012 ounce; milk, 16 ounces; cheese, 0.13 ounce; butter, 0.76 ounce; and ice-cream, 0.5 ounce.

### HOG SUPPLY IN THE UNITED STATES

Returns of September 1, 1919, give the total number of stock hogs in the United States on that date as 62,073,000. A year ago there were 65,066,000, and on September 1, 1917, 60,218,000. Of the states, Iowa leads with 8,143,000 pigs (last year she had 9,048,000); Missouri comes next with 4,177,000 (4,262,000 in 1918); Illinois follows with 4,071,000 (4,331,000); Nebraska has 3,893,000 (4,580,000); Indiana, 3,784,000 (3,901,000); Ohio, 3,458,000 (3,529,000). Arizona gets along with 29,000 swine, and Rhode Island brings up the rear with 16,000.

### NEW METHOD OF PRESERVING MEAT

Advices from Canada tell of the discovery of a new method of preserving meat for shipment. This method provides for sterilizing the meat, instead of holding it at low temperatures. It is claimed that in this way meat can be preserved for ninety days, if kept at a temperature below 65 degrees. The sterilizing agent is thymol, which is evaporated on an electric heater, the fumes being forced through the rooms in which the meat is stored.

### CARIBOU ON THE YUKON

Caribou, says a correspondent to the *London Times*, are ranging the hills within five miles of Dawson and over an area fifty miles wide by one hundred miles in length. Every hill is covered with herds. People arriving at Dawson from Glacier Creek, who traveled the main road through the center of the herds for fifty miles, estimate that there are hundreds of thousands, and possibly millions, of the animals in the great assembly.

### NEBRASKA DEFEATING HOG CHOLERA

The work and vigilance of fifty county farm bureaus in Nebraska, with the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture and the veterinary practitioners, have made that state practically free from hog cholera. From an annual loss which formerly amounted to millions of dollars, the loss from cholera during the current year will aggregate but a few hundred thousand dollars. The hog-raising sections of the state are now thoroughly organized, and practically all of the farmers report the appearance of cholera as soon as any outbreak is evident. Vaccination now follows promptly any outbreak, resulting in the disease being localized and quickly eradicated.

### THE COYOTE'S SERENADE

[Charles A. Myers]

"Thirty below!" A Rocky Mountain night;  
Silence supreme; space, solitude, and snow!  
The earth lies hidden 'neath its robe of white;  
The stars hang near, with frosty light aglow;  
Primeval silence here broods over all—  
A hush unbroken by the slightest sound.  
The crystal mantle seems a ghostly pall  
Laid o'er all life, deep buried in the ground.  
But, hark! A cry cleaves through the startled air—  
A wild, weird wail is flung across the night.  
A kindred spirit from his lonely lair  
Answers the call. Then every mountain height  
Awakes to life; the vibrant hills resound—  
A devils' carnival of hellish glee!  
Chaotic echoes from the cliffs rebound,  
That dance, mock, shriek in savage revelry.  
Fantastic clamor fills the wintry vale.  
Then comes a pause, a hush; the voices cease,  
Followed by one last, lone, despairing wail;  
The echoes die; the valley rests in peace.  
"Thirty below!" A Rocky Mountain night;  
Silence supreme; space, solitude, and snow!  
The earth lies hidden 'neath its robe of white;  
The stars hang near, with frosty light aglow.



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### DANGER IN EATING RAW PORK

At this season there is especial danger of illness following the eating of raw or partly cooked pork, according to the Department of Agriculture. Of course, most Americans do not knowingly consume uncooked pork, although it is eaten not infrequently either as raw ham or in sausages that have been insufficiently cooked. At hog-killing time particularly there are many home-made meat products prepared on the farm, and consequently special care should be taken to make sure that pork, before it is eaten, is sufficiently cooked.

The disease known as trichinosis, which may result from eating raw or imperfectly cooked pork, is caused by microscopic worms known as trichinae. These parasites in years past have been found to be present in one out of seventy-one hogs, and if the presence of dead trichinae and trichinae-like bodies is included in the count, an average of one out of every thirty-nine hogs has been found affected. Unlike many other infectious diseases, the severity of the attack of trichinosis depends on the number of parasites swallowed. Large quantities of slightly infected pork must be eaten in order to produce bad effects; but, on the other hand, severe illness may be caused by eating small amounts of pork that is heavily infected.

### "THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND"

The following resolution was passed by the residents of Spon-street and district, Coventry, England, at a public meeting recently:

"We, the residents of Spon-street and district, and loyal citizens of Coventry, do protest against the reopening of a shop for the sale of horse flesh in this district, there being, in our opinion, sufficient English and colonial butchers in the district to supply us with 'Britishers' food,' without our having to resort to what we usually feed dogs with; and we say that if the foreigners (who should have left the city) like to eat it, we have not the least objection to them doing so, but we do insist on living as Britishers, and consider this to be an objectional business."

### CHICAGO PACKERS IN CANADA

Between 52 and 53 per cent of the stock of the Union Stock Yards at Toronto, Ontario, is owned by Chicago interests, on the authority of the Cost of Living Committee of the Canadian House of Commons.



## TenEyck MOTOR CO.

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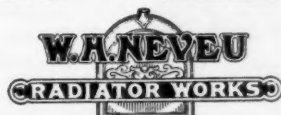
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# AFTER THE DAY'S WORK

## "THE TIGER OF FRANCE"



CLEMENCEAU WITH GENERAL PERSHING

Clemenceau has gone fishing.

The war won, the Tricolor again floating over the citadel of Metz, the elections brought to a satisfactory termination, the grand old man of France has taken refuge among the hills and valleys of his native Vendée. There, in rustic seclusion, he will ruminate on the human tragi-comedy, his black eyes gleaming with irony, while the perch bite.

Georges Eugène Clemenceau was born in 1841. Seven years older than Balfour, he is the Nestor of European statesmen. But in some respects he is the most youthful of that grizzled group, as in many ways he remains the most remarkable. From the day the firebrand medical student threw his hat into the ring

by opposing the impassioned republicanism of his reckless twenty years to the imperialistic revival under the third Napoleon, his career has been one of ceaseless strife. Combat is his very breath of life. And the smoke of battle has kept him young. At seventy-eight his step is still elastic, his hat aggressively cocked, his chin and cane raised in challenge, his Gallic logic as lucid and ready as ever, the foil of his repartee as supple and merciless.

In and out of Parliament, as deputy and journalist, dramatist and philosopher, Clemenceau, the doctor, has been the surgeon in French public life. Many are the malignant growths of which his keen-edged wit and cauterizing satire

have rid the body politic. Everyone feared his pen and his tongue. No government that incurred his displeasure or excited his scorn ever lasted long—"wrecker of cabinets" became his favorite appellation. Numberless were the enemies he made; numerous the duels of "satisfaction" he was called upon to fight—always responding eagerly, generally coming off victoriously. Hypocrisy and cant, pose and pretense, nebulosity and indecision—these were his pet animosities. Corrosive criticism, ridicule that stripped bare, humor that stung to the quick—these were his weapons. Nervous, electric, vibrant, imaginative—such was his style.

But negative as were his methods, and destructive their primary effect, his aim was definite enough, and his ultimate influence a very positive value. His aim was the glory of France; his influence that of a purifying flame. And when, in its direst need, his country called him to take the helm of the drifting ship of state, resolutely, with firm hand and unfaltering faith, the denunciator gripped the wheel and piloted it safe to the harbor. The wrecker became the rescuer.

The story of those tragic days in the summer of 1917, after the Somme offensive had so piteously failed, will live long in the history of France. Ministry after ministry had gone down, overwhelmed by popular anger at their impotence and vacillation. The bravest of a brave race were beginning to grow faint of heart—there seemed no way out. War-weariness had invaded the army. Doubt of the outcome was sapping the strength of the nation. The cancer of compromise was taking root. Treason and treachery were showing their ugly heads. A *bought* peace was becoming more than a mere whisper. Only one man remained who had not been tried out.

They sent for the octogenarian. And from the very hour Clemenceau took hold the drooping spirits revived. The imperturbable serenity, the unwavering confidence, of this cheerful old cynic were contagious. A new hope inspired the nation. The army was as transformed. "They shall not pass!" again became the watchword of a united people.

And they did not.

\* \* \*

This wonderful old war-horse—with Lloyd George and Foch the most outstanding figure of the Great War—is a typical product of his country. With cosmopolitan tastes and range of thought he combines a flaming patriotism. With precision and definiteness of action he unites the day-dreaming of the idealist. For such are the French. Moving in an



atmosphere of universal ideas—the eternal verities—and with knowledge and interests that are world-embracing, like most of his compatriots he cares comparatively little for travel or intimate contact with the fruits of other cultures. France to him is the universe in miniature—what more does mortal need?

And now, having run the gamut of human sensations, having drunk deep of the wine of life, from the Parnassus of his clarified experience and the last crowning achievement of his impetuous career, Clemenceau, with Olympic calm and a kindly gleam in his inscrutable eye, can look down on the antics of this dilapidated old ant-hill, while the perch bite.

"After a long life in which he had seen everything, felt everything, done everything, he had no illusions left—nothing but a kind of burning flame of passion for France. Everything else was vanity. So old, so worldly wise, so obstinate, so witty, and withal so gentle (French to the bone)—there is no one like him in the whole world today," writes Ray Stannard Baker in his new book, "What Wilson Did at Paris."

#### WHAT IS A MAN?

An age-old and seemingly baffling question is: "What is a man?" Here is the scientific answer, as furnished by a writer in the *Electrical Experimenter*: A man weighing 150 pounds will contain approximately 3,500 cubic feet of gas—oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen—in his constitution. He also contains all the necessary fats to make a 15-pound candle, and thus possesses considerable illuminating possibilities. His system contains over 22 pounds of carbon, or enough to make 9,360 lead-pencils. There are about 50 grains of iron in the blood, and the rest of the body would supply enough of this metal to make one spike large enough to hold his weight. A healthy man contains 54 ounces of phosphorus. This deadly poison would make 800,000 matches, or enough poison to kill 500 persons. This, with 2 ounces of lime, makes the stiff bones and brains. No matter how sour a man looks, he contains about 60 lumps of sugar of the ordinary cubical dimensions; and, to make the seasoning complete, there are 20 spoonfuls of salt. Break the shells of 1,000 eggs into a large pan or basin, and you have the ingredients to make a man, from his toe-nails to the most delicate tissues of his brain.

The hump of a camel serves it as an emergency ration. If deprived of food for several days, the animal falls back on the fat of its own hump, which then gradually disappears before the limbs are perceptibly reduced.

## THE WOMAN'S CORNER

*THE PRODUCER* invites its women readers to send it contributions, ideas, suggestions for this department. Co-operate with us in making the "Corner" just what you want it to be. Address all communications to Editor Woman's Corner, *THE PRODUCER*, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colo.

#### CHRISTMAS CHEER

[Mabel Compton]

IT IS A GOOD THING to keep in our hearts—even though it is many a day since we lost our faith in Santa Claus, along with our loss of several other things. The Christmas spirit lives on still—perhaps to keep us from missing Santa. And it may be that that same spirit on other days of the year would keep us from missing the "other things" quite so much.

In these days, when a dollar seems almost to buy only a quarter's worth, and we need every one that we can get hold of for the actual necessities of life, it is a great temptation to let Christmas slip by in the easiest possible way, with "just a little something for the children." We hesitate more than ever to put money into a lot of foolish little gewgaws and gimcracks. And that is well, of course. But there was never a time when the practical gift was so welcome as now. This great common need abroad in the land today may be turned to one good account just now; for it lends to the homely, useful thing the gala attire of holiday time and the happy Christmas thoughts—sometimes more priceless than a work of art in itself. And then there are always the hundred-and-one little home-made things, fashioned of bits of almost nothing, rescued here and there from the waste-basket or the bargain counter, and bound together with loving stitches. Who is not touched by their personal air of warm friendliness and truest good-will?

And, after all, it is not so much either the time or the money that we put into a gift that spells its value. It is that little good wish for another's happiness, which haply was woven in, that means so much to others—and to us.

Merry Christmas!

#### THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

It is so easy to sit at home and talk about it! There are some women, however, who are trying to do something about it. And the least we can do, it seems to me, is to find out what they are doing and why. An appeal is going out for the women of this western country to inform themselves on the vital questions of the day concerning the home, women, and children. Only when they understand these questions can they appreciate how deeply they concern their home and children and themselves.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association is conducting a series of conferences in the western states in the interest of the League of Women Voters. The first aim of the league is to secure the speedy ratification by the states of the Federal Suffrage Amendment. The second is to seek the advice of the women of the country concerning the best methods of promoting the aims of the league, which are to increase the effect-

iveness of women's votes and to further better government. The program for legislation is being considered by seven different committees, and includes:

1. American Citizenship.
2. Protection of Women in Industry.
3. Child Welfare.
4. Improvement of Election Laws and Methods.
5. Social Hygiene.
6. Unification of Laws Concerning the Social Status of Women.
7. Food Supply and Demand.

On the last-named subject, during these conferences in the West, Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, chairman of the Committee on Food Supply and Demand of the League of Women Voters, and Miss Jessie R. Haver, legislative representative of the National Consumers' League, are discussing the food problem in its relation to the reports of the Federal Trade Commission on the meat-packing industry and the legislation now pending in Congress. Miss Haver says:

"The league has been working for the past twenty years to bring about better

working conditions and better wages for wage-earning women and children.

"It now finds that the results of its twenty years' work are seriously handicapped by the ever-rising cost of living, which constantly runs ahead of working wages. So the National Consumers' League is attending all the hearings in Congress on the meat-packing industry, and is urging its members to read and study the report of the Federal Trade Commission on this vital subject.

"It believes that, since women are the economical buyers of the nation's food-stuffs, this subject is of most particular interest to them. The National Consumers' League is urging its members to look behind the corner grocer, who, they are told, is the profiteer, and to study the conditions of the production of food where they are told profiteering takes place. The league is now convinced that the five big meat-packers have virtual control over the meat industry of this country, as well as over the prevailing meat substitutes.

"We do not believe that the farmer or cattleman is the profiteer he is alleged to be; but we do believe that more direct channels should be established between the producer and the consumer. First, the meat-packing industry should be regulated along the lines provided by the Kendrick-Kenyon bills, and, second, the producer and consumer should organize co-operative selling and buying societies. The city consumers are beginning to realize that they have let 'George' run their food business, and now 'George' is charging a handsome profit. The city wage-earner and the farmer's wife are laboring equally under these conditions. The city wage-earner appeals to the farmer's wife for a little more patience until they can study this question, and we hope that we can join hands with the farmer's wife to bring better conditions for us all."

The reports of the Federal Trade Commission on the meat-packing industry, and on the extent and growth of the business of the five big packers in meat and other food products, may be secured from the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D. C.

"The Government and the Market Basket," by Miss Jessie R. Haver, may be secured from the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, 171 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Those interested in co-operative markets may secure literature and information from the Co-operative League of America, 2 West Thirteenth Street, New York, N. Y.

#### PRESSURE COOKERY

The cooking of food under steam pressure is now indorsed by domestic-science experts and government demonstrators for both efficiency and economy. A great variety of tempting dishes may be thus prepared in much less time, with less attention and less fuel.

Food prepared in a pressure cooker is cooked under a pressure of from one

to twenty pounds at a temperature of 216 to 260 degrees Fahrenheit. This high-temperature steam under pressure penetrates the food much faster than heat applied in any other form, so that the time required is only one-quarter to one-third of that of ordinary methods. It cooks quickly, thoroughly, and without waste, preserving all the flavors and nutriment of the food. One may have a shank of ham with beans, brown bread, shredded cabbage, and steamed apples for dessert—all in less than an hour.

Pressure cooking is practical and convenient for almost any kind of food, but it has its greatest advantage in the preparation of the cheaper cuts of meats, hard-to-cook vegetables, and such bothersome things as cornmeal mush, beans, and hominy. It is also the very best possible process for cold pack canning.

The pressure cooker saves work and worry as well as time and fuel; for it does not have to be watched. Basting, turning, and stirring are entirely unnecessary. The food cannot stick, burn, or dry out; so the user is perfectly free to go about her other duties with an easy mind.

The cooker requires no special kind of heat. It works just as well over coal, wood, or oil heat as with gas or electricity, and is, therefore, just as adaptable to the country housewife's use as to that of the woman in town. And of the two the former certainly has the greater need of it. It will make up to her in some measure for other conveniences that she lacks. Indeed, so far as the cooking question is concerned, it is better than a maid in the kitchen, considering how much the maid wastes and how much the cooker saves. It is really not so much an expense as a wise household investment.

And, talking of Christmas, what could make a better gift?

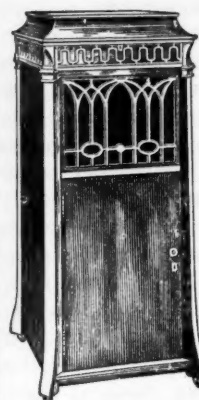
#### RUNNING WATER IN THE FARM HOME IS A WIFE-SAVER

Within the last few years a great deal of attention has been turned toward rural problems and the emancipation of the farmer and his family from isolation and drudgery. The rural free delivery, parcel post, telephone, and automobile have done much to take away the isolation of the country; but, after all, pure water, piped into the house, is the main thing. The farmer of today can live just as completely and as comfortably as his city relatives live, and at no greater expense.

He can have furnace heat, lights, and running water. He can and should operate his farm with power machinery as soon as he is able, and relieve the drudg-

(Continued on page 49)

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ery of farm and home work as far as possible. The farm and farm conditions must be made more likable as well as more profitable, and the fortunate thing is that it will be infinitely more profitable if many of the conveniences are provided which will make it more attractive.

A great many farmers do not realize how easily and cheaply some type of water system can be installed in their homes. Start and investigate now.

### FIRST-AID CHEST IN EVERY HOME

Every home, especially where there are children, should have a definite place to keep first-aid remedies. In farm homes, where it is often very difficult to secure the services of a physician promptly, the quick use of first-aid remedies is important.

Miss Miriam M. Haynes, of the Colorado Agricultural College, has the following valuable suggestion along this line:

"A first-aid chest made from an old spool-box or from lumber about the place, or a high, strong shelf, is very good. One should be sure that there is a good light on the chest or shelf, so there will be no chance of taking the wrong bottle. Label each article carefully. Give special markings to bottles containing poisons. Keep all bottles, bandages, and instruments on first-aid shelf in order, so that they may be found instantly."

### SUGGESTIONS FOR A HOLIDAY DINNER

#### A Jolly Good Christmas Pudding \*

3 cups stale bread-crumbs	1/2 cup seeded and shredded raisins
1 quart scalded milk	1 cup broken nut-meats
1 cup sugar	1 teaspoon cinnamon
3 eggs	1/2 teaspoon allspice
4 tablespoons chopped suet	1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt	
1/2 cup chopped citron	

Soak crumbs in milk; cool slightly; add sugar, suet, and eggs slightly beaten, salt, spices and fruit. Turn into buttered baking-dish, cover, and bake one hour in slow oven. Serve with—

#### Foamy Sauce

1/2 cup butter	Grated rind of 1 lemon
1 cup powdered sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs	1 cup scalded sweet milk
2 tablespoons lemon juice	

Cream butter and sugar, add egg yolks beaten light, and stir into the boiling-hot milk in a double boiler. Pour over stiffly beaten whites of eggs, and add flavoring. Serve hot.

### OLAF AND ASTRID'S CHRISTMAS

[Evalene Stein]

Once upon a time, in a small village in a far-away country, lived a little brother and sister, named Olaf and Astrid. Most of the village folk had comfortable cottages, with thatched roofs and cozy chimney corners; but the home of Olaf and Astrid was only a tumble-down hut by the edge of the road; for they were very poor. Their father was dead, and their mother, who was not strong, was obliged to toil all day long to keep them in bread; and it was only hard, black bread at that. All day long—stitch, stitch, stitch—she sewed at the work brought to her by her more well-to-do neighbors; and, while she toiled, the children, who were bright, cheerful little souls, did their best to help. Every day Astrid tidied up the hut, while Olaf would trudge off to the near-by forest to gather fagots to burn; and it took many weary arm-loads for the little boy; for it was near Christmas time, and the winter was very cold. Nevertheless, though the wind whistled through the crevices of the hut, they managed always to keep a little fire on the hearth, and they did not complain if their bread was scanty and their fingers often numb.

When the day before Christmas came, Olaf and Astrid went out with the village folk to the forest to gather the ground-pine and juniper berries which everybody twined into pretty, green garlands to brighten his home and make gay his windows against the time for lighting the Christmas candles. For you know that when, on the blessed Christmas Eve, the dear Christ-child comes down from heaven and softly treads the earth again, it pleases him for those who love him to set candles in their windows to cheer and guide him on his way.

As now the merry folk strayed through the forest, looking for the pine and juniper, there was much happy chatter of the beautiful Christmas trees trimmed and waiting for the morrow and of all the holiday goodies being made ready for the great day. Poor little Olaf and Astrid listened in silence, as they filled their arms with the trailing greens, determined that, if they had nothing else, at least they could garland their window and set a light for the Christ-child.

But, alas, when the dusk fell, and from the village windows one by one the tall wax candles—kept for the blessed night—began to twinkle, the poor children looked in vain for something to light. All they could find was the half-burned end of a tallow candle—the last in the house. The mother sighed; but, "Never mind," she said; "set it in the window. At least it will show the dear Christ-child that we love him."

"And perhaps it will light him a few steps on his way," said Astrid.

"Yes," said Olaf; "and if he comes on the road through the forest, ours will be the first light he will see! Do you think he will come that way, mother?"

"I cannot tell, my child," answered the mother, as, gathering up her work, she drew her chair near the window. She had many stitches to take before it was finished, and must sew as long as possible by the Christ-child's light; for she had no other. The wind blew in around the chinks of the window, and made the candle flame leap and flicker; but she drew her threadbare shawl closer about her shoulders and bravely stitched on.

Meantime the children had gone to the tiny bedroom, as she had bidden them; but, as they lay on their straw bed, they were not asleep. They were whispering together about how wonderful it was that the Christ-child should come down to earth for that one night; and, "Oh," cried Astrid, "how I wish we could see him!"

Olaf thought a moment, and then said: "I believe we could if we tried."

"But how?" said Astrid. "You know last year we watched, but the snow blew against the window pane, so nothing was to be seen!"

"Well," replied Olaf, "if we walked out in the road, perhaps we could see him; and, if he reaches the village from this side, perhaps we would meet him as he comes out of the forest."

Astrid drew a long breath. "But—but—" she said, "do you think mother will let us?"

"We can ask her," answered Olaf. "But we will get ready first." For Olaf, being a boy, was bolder than Astrid and always took the lead.

So hurriedly they sprang out of bed and eagerly dressed themselves in their carefully patched little garments, put on

# THE KIDS' CORRAL

their thin stockings and worn little shoes, and then went into the other room. But their poor, tired mother was sitting motionless by the window. The work had fallen from her numb fingers, and, her head drooped on her breast, she slept in spite of herself.

As the children stood irresolute, "Poor mother!" they whispered. "We will not waken her. We will not be gone long. Surely the Christ-child will soon be coming, and we shall be back before she misses us."

So quietly they opened the door and, closing it softly behind them, stepped out into the night. They looked anxiously down the long village street, and, though the snow was falling, here and there they caught the twinkle of the wax candles; but no Christ-child could they see. Then they turned and looked toward the dark road beyond the village; for their hut stood on its outskirts.

"Somehow," said Olaf, "I have a feeling that he will come through the forest and down this road to the village. Let us walk along it a little way, and maybe we shall meet him."

Astrid shivered a little, but she did not want Olaf to think her a coward; so, putting her hand in his, she trudged along beside him. Soon the wind, which had been blowing in fitful gusts, rose to a fierce gale, whirling the heavy snow in their faces and chilling them with bitter cold. As they tried vainly to make their way against the cruel blast, at last Astrid began to sob. "Oh, Olaf," she cried, "let us go back!"

By this time Olaf, too, was quite willing to turn back; but where? The blinding snow hid all the twinkling candles from sight, and everywhere it was very dark. They had no idea where their own little hut stood, for they had quite lost their way. On and on they stumbled, every moment their little bodies growing number and number in the piercing cold. By and by they found themselves in the great forest, and now and again, as they tried to feel for some path, their little hands would bruise themselves against the icy trunks of the giant trees.

All the while the bitter cold was creeping closer and closer around their hearts, till at last, in despair, they were about to sink down in a snowdrift to die. But, just as they had given up all hope, suddenly a low, murmuring voice reached their ears. It was like the soft whispering of pine boughs in summer, only clearer and plainer, and it came from a young fir tree growing near by. "Come hither, little ones," it murmured, "and nestle under my boughs, and I will shelter you."

Tremblingly the shivering children groped their way toward the friendly

voice, and, sinking down in the snow, crept beneath its branches, which, as it was a young tree, grew very near the ground. Immediately the soft, green boughs seemed to close about and caress them, and soon a pleasant warmth began to steal through them. The icy chill thawed from around their hearts, and the warm blood tingled to their fingertips.

All the while the fir boughs kept murmuring and whispering as if they had something wonderful to tell; but, as neither Olaf nor Astrid could quite understand it, presently their eyes began to blink as they nestled in their cozy little shelter. Perhaps they dozed a little; but soon they sat up very wide-awake, for the most marvelous white light was beginning to stream through the rustling boughs.

"Can it be the moon?" whispered Astrid. Olaf peered from out their shelter, but could see no moon—only the bleak, cloudy sky.

But brighter and brighter grew the strange white light. It was like the whiteness of thousands of Easter lilies flooding the fir tree with a dazzling radiance. And all at once the children were overwhelmed with happiness; they did not know why, but their little hearts seemed fairly bursting with joy. Never in all their lives had they felt so glad. The fir tree, too, seemed filled with joy; for its soft whispering had changed to a flute-like, silvery singing, high and sweet and thrilling with gladness, and all its little icy cones were clapping together with a tinkling music.

Wonder-struck, the children crept out a little way from beneath its boughs, so they could look up at it; for the most marvelous things were happening. As the lovely white light poured over it, they saw that the snow on its topmost branches had turned into a glittering golden star; all the filmy threads of hoarfrost which had covered it became shimmering silver and gold cobwebs; while, as they looked, they could see all the little icy cones swelling—some into

[Continued on page 52]

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pink-cheeked apples of sugar, others into gilded nuts or cornucopias of sugar-plums. And then all the feathery, green boughs broke into the strangest blossoming. Suddenly they were hung with the gayest and most bewitching playthings.

As Olaf and Astrid gazed at the marvelous tree, more beautiful than anything they had ever dreamed of, with little cries of delight they reached out their arms toward it, as if they would hug it to their breasts, though they did not venture to touch it. But, even as they stretched out their arms, they felt them filled with the wonderful sweetmeats and playthings. As they sank back with joyous sighs of content, slowly the white radiance began to pale—and pale; and then a great drowsiness came upon the children, and, still clasping their treasures close to their hearts, they crept back beneath the fir boughs and fell asleep.

At daybreak there came a tinkle of sleigh-bells through the forest; for a traveler from a distant village was on the road early. As he drove along between the great pines and hemlocks, all at once he noticed the young fir tree. Not that there was anything strange about it, as it stood green and feathery, laden with little drifts of snow, but under its boughs there was a bright gleam of scarlet.

The traveler stopped his sleigh, and, going to the spot, what should he see but Olaf and Astrid still sound asleep? They were dressed in little red coats with shining buttons, and warm caps and mittens. On Olaf's feet were red-topped boots, such as he had longed for, and Astrid wore pretty little shoes of scarlet leather. The pockets of their coats were stuffed with sugar-plums and sweetmeats, and the children were still hugging their wonderful toys.

The traveler looked at them in utter amazement. At first he thought they must be frozen, lying there in the bitter cold. But, as he stooped to lift them from the snow, they opened happy eyes and smiled at him. "How now!" he said in astonishment. "Who are you, and how came you here?"

"Please, sir," said Olaf, gathering his wits together, "we are Olaf and Astrid, and we came out to see the Christ-child." Here he caught sight of all his new finery, and was dumb with surprise. So, too, was Astrid, who was so bewildered that she could answer no more questions. The traveler decided they were children from the village who must have strayed from home, and he was about to lift them into the sleigh when suddenly he paused; for he had noticed something in the snow where a drift

had left it smooth. "Where," he said to Olaf, "is the other child who was with you?"

"There was no one but Astrid, sir," answered Olaf.

"But look!" said the traveler sharply. "There *must* have been another; for here in the snow are the prints of little bare feet!"

But, even as they stared at these, tiny white flames seemed to play over them, melting the snow; and where every footprint had been there sprang up a tuft of violets. At this the traveler uncovered his head and knelt in the snow beside them.

When he rose to his feet, he said no more, but, placing the children in the sleigh, drove to the village; and, when Olaf pointed out their hut, he took them to the door and softly opened it. The mother, still sitting by the window, started from her sleep; for so weary had she been that all night long she had not wakened. The candle had burned to its socket, and the fagots on the hearth were only a heap of ashes; but, in spite of the wintry cold, the room was warm and pleasant, and the work, which had fallen from her tired fingers, lay finished and folded in her lap.

The traveler went on to the village inn for his Christmas breakfast; and, when he told the strange things he had seen, the news quickly flew from mouth to mouth, and soon all the villagers were flocking to the little hut. There, when they saw Olaf's and Astrid's wonderful gifts, and heard the marvelous happenings of the night, they looked at each other in awe, and whispered one to another: "Surely it was no other than the blessed Christ-child himself who passed through the forest last night and took compassion on these fatherless little ones!"

And then more than one face among them reddened with shame, as they remembered how selfish and thoughtless they themselves had been to let their poor neighbors suffer. Right away they set to work with hammers and saws, and stopped up the chinks, and made the little hut warm and comfortable; for how better, they said, could they keep the Christ-child's birthday? Then they saw to it that the rickety little table held a share of their own Christmas feast.

Nor did the good villagers, now that they had wakened up, forget their kindnesses, and day by day the poor mother found her burdens lightened by many a helping hand. And, as for Olaf and Astrid, why, there were no happier children in all the world!

## CHRISTMAS EVE

[Evelyn Stein]

Echoing from the northland,  
Faint and far away,  
Hear the sleigh-bells ringing,  
Bringing Santa's sleigh!

Racing over mountains,  
Skimming over plains,  
Hark the merry tinkling  
Of the reindeer's reins!

Santa's coat is scarlet,  
Scarlet is his cap,  
White as snow the fur robe  
Tucked across his lap.

Shining sprigs of holly  
Nodding from his pack;  
All the joys of toyland  
Strapped upon his back.

Nearer now and clearer  
Sound the sleigh-bells sweet;  
Soon will they be sprinkling  
Tinkling down the street.

Soon will Santa's reindeer's  
Little flying hoofs  
Print the snow with prancing,  
Mounting on the roofs.

Hush! Do you not hear them  
Softly drawing near?  
Clatter, patter, patter,  
They are coming here!

Children, hurry, hurry!  
Jump into your beds!  
Tightly shut your eyes now,  
Cover up your heads!

Off will run the reindeer  
If you try to peep;  
Santa, too, will vanish  
Till you go to sleep!

Oh, but at the daybreak!  
Oh, the joy to find  
All the pretty playthings  
He will leave behind!

## THE AUTUMN FOREST

[Evelyn Stein]

All the forest looks today  
Like a splendid, great bouquet!  
There are trees as glossy red  
As our summer poppy-bed;  
Trees that in the sunlight show  
Yellower than golden-glow;  
Orange-colored trees, and some  
Almost like a damask plum.  
And when I look up between  
All the scarlet, gold, and green,  
Bluer than a corn-flower's blue  
Is the sky that twinkles through!  
It is wonderful to see  
How bright everything can be!  
—But it is so strangely still!  
Not a single whip-poor-will,  
Robin redbreast, nor bluebird,  
Nor a brown thrush to be heard!  
Why, I wonder, is it they  
Always fly so soon away?  
I should think they'd hate to miss  
Anything so fine as this,  
And I'm sure at such a sight  
They would sing with all their might!

Not Appreciated.—"Mamma," complained a little girl recently, "teacher won't let me sing any more, and I'm the fastest singer in the school, too!"—London Bightly.



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range all to himself, and the best range in the  
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large barns, all kinds of outbuildings and cor-  
rals; fifteen head of horses, harnesses, hay  
tools and farm implements.

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**8,500 acres** deeded, 400 acres irrigated,  
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machinery; 1,000 head of cattle, twenty horses;  
800 tons of hay, 300 tons of ensilage, 2,000 bushels  
of grain. Beautiful country home.

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pasture land; six-room brick dwelling.  
Price, \$50 per acre.

120 acres; 35 acres in alfalfa, balance  
grain land; good brick dwelling, barns,  
sheds, etc. Price, \$125 per acre.

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**Price \$28,000**

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**WALTER W. OLMSTED**  
608 Ideal Building  
17th and Champa Sts., Denver, Colo.

# THE POETS' PEN

## THE OLD AND THE NEW

[Roderick Quinn in Sydney Bulletin]

The old man sits in his corner chair,  
Shut in from the rain and wind;  
His eyes have the dreams of the past in  
them,  
And his face is gray and lined,  
And now and again he shakes his head  
And utters the thought in his mind:

"The old time was a fine time—  
Ah, God be with it, too!  
But the new time is no time at all  
For a man to be living through;  
A strange world is the new world—  
A mad world, I say,  
With its bird ways and its fish ways,  
And its turning of night to day."

The smoke goes up to the blackened roof  
Where, playing at come and go,  
The shadows dance at the fire's will  
With its thick red logs aglow;  
And the old man, thinking of shadowy things,  
Talks on of the Long Ago:

"The towns stand where the trees stood—  
Ah, God be with the trees,  
With their green leaves that danced in tune  
To the pipe of the morning breeze!  
The flame's work and the blade's work  
Are evil work, for sure;  
But a worse fate has the grim world  
For the happy of heart and pure."

A cry comes out of the night, where lone  
An owl in the darkness hawks,  
And something worse than the wild west  
wind  
Through the wintry midnight stalks,  
And the old man shivers and warms his  
hands,  
As out of the Past he talks:

"The old times and the old loves—  
Ah, God be with them both,  
And the young lad and her he loved  
And the hour of their plighted troth!  
'Tis dead, dead that they both lie;  
The grave holds them fast;  
For her form sleeps in the cold mold,  
And his heart in the ash-ey Past."

## THE HOMELAND

[Dana Burnet]

My land was the west land; my home was  
on the hill.  
I never think of my land but it makes my  
heart to thrill;  
I never smell the west wind that blows the  
golden skies [in my eyes.  
But old desire is in my feet and dreams are

My home crowned the high land; it had a  
stately grace.  
I never think of my land but I see my  
mother's face;  
I never smell the west wind that blows the  
silver ships [is on my lips.  
But old delight is in my heart and mirth

My land was a high land; my home was near  
the skies.  
I never think of my land but a light is in my  
eyes;  
I never smell the west wind that blows the  
summer rain  
But I am at my mother's knee, a little lad  
again.

## FULL MOON

[Ethel Wolff]

The sleeping garden lay  
In a silver dress,  
And great gray owls flew low  
With a swift caress  
To the tall white lilies'  
Saintly loveliness.

Ash-gray the roses peered  
O'er her window-sill;  
Straight flared her candle-flame  
In a night so still  
She heard a far-off clock  
Chiming clear and chill.

She heard the placid sea  
On the beach below,  
Lapping, lapping softly,  
Crawling, crawling slow;  
While on the glitt'ring lawn  
Hares leaped to and fro.

Sudden, the poplar trees  
Gave a dreaming sigh,  
Shaking their sparkling leaves  
In the cloudless sky;  
A waking cock crowed shrill—  
And the dawn drew nigh!

## THE DRUNKEN STOKER

[W. Kodak in Sydney Bulletin]

Blind drunk and reeling through the rain,  
The furnace pallor on his face,  
He beats back to his ship again  
To find his cheerless sleeping-place.  
His poor clothes, stiff with grime and sweat,  
Cling to his limbs—he does not care.  
His old black cap, now gleaming wet,  
Shadows a white face of despair.

To feed through lonely nights and days  
The fires that burn men up; to be  
Forever slaving in a maze  
Of flame and stark machinery—  
This is his job. He cannot lose  
The roar of fires that drag him down  
Until he has his swinish booze  
Somewhere about the friendly town.

The cool, sweet rain comes down in sheets.  
He reels on, drenched, to find his ship.  
Chancing the perils of the streets.  
Some night in port he'll make a slip;  
A hospital will see him die,  
Or 'neath some lonely wharf he'll drown.  
But drink, and let the sea roll by!  
The slave has flung his shovel down!

## SINGING TO THE HARP

[Ernest Rhys in New Witness]

If those old days had heart's delight,  
And grace to man was given—  
They drank it from the melody  
The harp had out of heaven;  
And every evil thought and care  
Was from the soul far driven.

Merry and dear the maids to hear  
Upon the small-harp singing,  
And brave to hear the lyric lads  
The bass and tenor bringing;  
Each voice did with the other vie,  
Like bird on bird up-springing.

The old Welsh tongue, the small Welsh harp—  
How well they went together!  
They lifted up the wintry heart  
From sorrow and bad weather;  
They woke a sound to win a soul—  
So well they went together.

## TRANSFER OF TITLE

[Iris in Chicago Tribune]

("In consideration of love and affection.")  
I never owned a vast estate;  
I had no store of goods or pelf;  
I had no titles of the great—  
I merely owned myself.

And yet I found it worth my while  
To give my simple kingdom care;  
To add, from time to time, a smile,  
Or kind word, here and there;

To keep alight a guiding touch;  
To keep alive the hearthstone's fire;  
To wait, with welcome, on the porch,  
For guest I might desire;

To keep my larder filled; to give  
Refreshment to some weary friend;  
To nourish all I had; to live  
In love that knows no end.

This little kingdom that I had  
Is mine no more; yet pride endures;  
I still may guard it, and I'm glad,  
My dear, to be all yours.

## AIN'T IT FINE TODAY?

[From British Weekly]

Sure, this world is full of trouble—  
I ain't said it ain't.  
Lord! I've had enough, an' double,  
Reason for complaint.  
Rain an' storm have come to fret me,  
Skies were often gray;  
Thorns an' brambles have beset me  
On the road—but, say,  
Ain't it fine today?

What's the use of always weepin',  
Makin' trouble last?  
What's the use of always keepin'  
Thinkin' of the past?  
Each must have his tribulation,  
Water with his wine.  
Life, it ain't no celebration.  
Trouble? I've had mine—  
But today is fine!

It's today that I am livin',  
Not a month ago;  
Havin', losin', takin', givin',  
As time wills it so.  
Yesterday a cloud of sorrow  
Fell across the way;  
It may rain again tomorrow,  
It may rain—but, say,  
Ain't it fine today?



# THE SPICE BOX

**Did She Mean Just That?**—THE WOMAN—"I want you to forget that I told you I didn't mean what I said about not taking back my refusal to change my mind. I've been thinking it over, and I've decided that I was wrong in the first place."

THE MAN—"You don't really mean that, do you, Dolly?"—London Mail.

**She Should Worry.**—"Della," said Mrs. Barrows sternly, "I met that policeman today who sat in the kitchen with you so long last night. I took advantage of the opportunity to speak to him."

"Oh, go on now!" replied Della, with a smile. "Ye needn't think that'll make me wan bit jealous, mum. Ol have got him safe enough."—New York Globe.

**A Toast.**—At an undertaker's banquet the following toast was given: "May we each of us live long enough to bury one another."—Boston Transcript.

**Worse.**—LADY—"Here, my poor fellow, is a quarter for you. It must be dreadful to be lame, but I think it must be worse to be blind."

TRAMP—"It is, mum. When I was blind they was always handing me counterfeit quarters."—American Legion Weekly.

**Liberal.**—Lights and noise were tabu, but there was some verbal expression of thought in undertones. The column was slogging forward the night before the attack on the St. Mihiel salient.

"Wonder where we're bound for now?" spoke one doughboy during a momentary check.

"I dunno," replied a voice in the dark, "but I heard an officer say it was Metz."

"Huh! Metz?"

"Sure—and he said the general meant to take it if it cost a hundred thousand lives."

Silence for about five seconds; then: "Liberal son of a gun, ain't he?"—Home Sector.

**A Change.**—"Isn't your wife dogmatic?" "She was when Pomeranian pups were the style, but now she's auto-matic."—Baltimore American.

**Prompt Payment.**—Two insurance agents—a Yankee and an Englishman—were bragging about their rival methods. The Britisher was holding forth on the system of prompt payment carried out by his people—no trouble, no fuss, no attempt to wriggle out of settlement.

"If the man died tonight," he continued, "his widow would receive her money by the first post tomorrow morning."

"You don't say!" drawled the Yankee. "See here, now; you talk of prompt payment! Waal, our office is on the third floor of a building forty-nine stories high. One of our clients lived in that forty-ninth story, and he fell out of the window. We handed him his check as he passed."

**Questions Asked.**—A small boy of the Jewish persuasion, who was playing at the end of the pier, fell into the sea and was only rescued after great difficulty by an intrepid swimmer, who dived off the end of the pier and succeeded in getting the boy into a rowboat.

Half an hour afterward, much exhausted by his effort, the rescuer was walking off the pier when a man came up and tapped him on the shoulder.

"Are you the man who saved my son Ikey's life?" he said.

"Yes," answered the much-exhausted hero.

"Then," said the Hebrew in indignant tones, "v'ere's his cap?"—London Tit-Bits.

**Difficult.**—A certain judge, after passing sentence, always gave advice to prisoners. Having before him a man found guilty of stealing, he started thus:

"If you want to succeed in this world, you must keep straight. Now, do you understand?"

"Well, not quite," said the prisoner. "But if your lordship will tell me how a man is to keep straight when he is trying to make both ends meet, I might."

—London Tit-Bits.

**The Scientific Mind.**—"This is a sixteen-year-old royal princess. The mummy has been preserved for two thousand years."

"Does that include the sixteen years she lived?"—London Passing Show.

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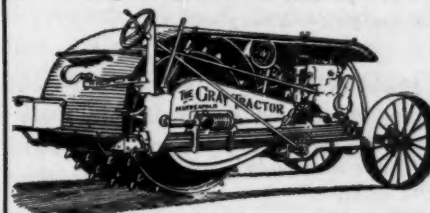
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**One at a Time.**—A man from the north of Scotland, visiting Glasgow, was "boned" by a Salvation Army lass, and he gave her a sixpence. Turning into another street, he was again asked for a contribution.

"Na, na," he said. "I gied a saxpence tae ane o' your folk 'roon the corner just noo."

"That was very good of you," said the girl. "But then you can't do a good thing too often. And, besides, you know the Lord will repay you a hundredfold."

"Aweel," said the cautious Scot. "I'll just wait till the first transaction's feenished before we start the second."—Boston Transcript.

**Happy Occasion.**—MOTHER—"What's the matter, darling?"

CHILD—"P-p-pa hit his finger with the hammer."

MOTHER—"Don't cry about that; you should laugh."

CHILD—"I-I d-did."—London Blighly.

**Monkey - Talk.**—Professor Garner reports that the female ape says "Moo-hoo," and the male ape replies "Wahoo." Evolution doesn't appear to have carried us very far. A chap on the moonlit beach last night said, "Who is oo?" and the girl replied, "I's oo's."—San Francisco Chronicle.

**His Business Was Urgent.**—A negro private had spent long, tiresome months in a camp near New York and wanted to go off on leave. He had a pass, but not the password, and when he came to the sentry the sentry refused to let him go. The negro pulled out his little pass and offered it.

"That isn't enough," said the sentry. "You must have the word."

"You mean that piece o' paper won't let me out?" demanded the darky.

"Have to have the word."

The negro reflected, then he pulled out a razor and began stropping it on his sleeve. "Man," he said impressively, "I gotta father in hell, a mother in heaven, an' a girl in Harlem, an' I'se gwine see one of 'em tonight."—Everybody's.

**Mistaken Identity.**—"Oh, I beg your pardon—I thought you were—somebody—"

"I am somebody!"

"I mean—"

"Well, I'm not—I'm somebody else."—Sydney Bulletin.

**Poor Mother.**—LITTLE TOMMY—"What does 'close quarters' mean, Ma?"

WEARY MOTHER—"It's a definition of my trying to get twenty-five cents from your father."—Life.

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**Wife Won.**—The race for the last word was getting hot. Hubby and wife were running neck and neck.

"You did!"

"I didn't!"

"You did!"

"I did not!"

The pace was slowing.

"Well," flashed hubby, "one of us two is a very capable liar. But there is one thing which prevents me saying which one."

"Modesty, I presume," retorted wife.  
—Pittsburg Sun.

**Could Prove It.**—They were discussing the five senses at the Los Angeles night school, and the question was asked:

"Which is the keenest of the senses?"

"Touch," promptly replied one pupil, and when asked to prove it, did so thusly:

"When you sit on a pin, you can't see it, you can't hear it, and you can't smell it, but you know it's there just the same."  
—Los Angeles Times.

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### "LET'S FINISH THE JOB"

[Judea in Chicago Tribune]

Now that the day of old Bacchus is over,  
Now that the war on Nicotia's begun,  
Let us abolish the scent of the clover,  
Likewise the dewdrops that gleam in the sun.

Down with the mazy! Thumbs down for  
Terpsichore!

No place for her in the gleam that's to be.  
Let's give up coffee and take to straight  
chicory,

Or let us wallow in pale cambric tea.

Banish all maidens with soul-daming dimples,

Made by the devil to ruin our soul;  
Give them all spectacles, false teeth, and  
pimples—

Then of the hemlock juice pass me a bowl.

When we at last have extinguished all gladness,

When only fever is looked for in spring,  
Patiently plod we this valley of sadness,  
Knowing that death has no longer a sting.